



maryland

historical society

01/08/2020

Honorable Dereck D. Davis, Chair
Economic Matters Committee
217 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Delegate Davis,

Please accept this letter in support of House Bill 21, entitled Abandoned Property in Possession of a Museum.

Well-constructed abandoned cultural property laws allow cultural institutions to effectively manage the priceless community resources with which they have been entrusted. The need for a legal framework for establishing clear title for abandoned objects has been recognized by most states. Maryland, however, is one of only four states that does not have any legal process for managing abandoned cultural property.

Museum professionals throughout the state acknowledge this is a critical issue. Abandoned cultural property cannot be loaned or conserved. Not only are valuable financial and staff resources being used to store and care for objects that cannot be used, but the lack of legal recourse poses an ethical dilemma. Abandoned cultural property in museums occupies valuable space that should instead be used for objects that better fulfill a museum's mission to serve the public.

There is a simple remedy to this problem. House Bill 21 proposes a way to improve collections by allowing Maryland museums to establish title to property that has been donated or left with them after a loan period has terminated and the lender could not be found. The law allows more efficient use of museum funds and assists museums in conserving, displaying, and loaning abandoned, unclaimed, or unsolicited property.

Adopting the proposed policy would enable Maryland museums to more appropriately use their resources and better serve their communities. In adopting a policy and passing this legislation, Maryland will strengthen its commitment to its cultural institutions and heritage sites by correcting an under-acknowledged, yet critical, issue.

We respectfully urge you to support Senate Bill 88.

Sincerely,

Mark B. Letzer
President & CEO

| THE WALTERS | | ART MUSEUM |

January 8, 2020

Honorable William C. Smith, Jr., Chair
Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Senator Smith,

Please accept this letter from the Walters Art Museum in support of Senate Bill 88, entitled Abandoned Property in Possession of a Museum.

Well-constructed abandoned cultural property laws allow cultural institutions to effectively manage the priceless community resources with which they have been entrusted. The need for a legal framework for establishing clear title for abandoned objects has been recognized by most states. Maryland, however, is one of only four states that does not have any legal process for managing abandoned cultural property. This situation creates financial, legal, and ethical challenges for museums like ours. We have a number of loans which have been abandoned over decades (some as old as 1930s and 40s). Because this law does not yet exist in Maryland, we must continue to use our limited resources caring for and storing these objects without being able to either a) take ownership or b) properly dispose of the works.

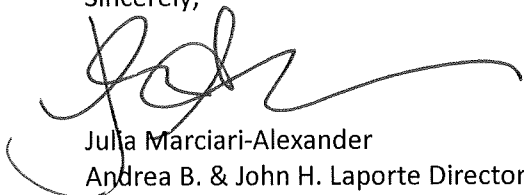
The Walters Art Museum joins other museum professionals throughout the state acknowledge this is a critical issue. Abandoned cultural property cannot be loaned or conserved. Not only are valuable financial and staff resources being used to store and care for objects that cannot be used, but the lack of legal recourse poses an ethical dilemma. Abandoned cultural property in museums occupies valuable space that should instead be used for objects that better fulfill a museum's mission to serve the public.

There is a simple remedy to this problem. Senate Bill 88 proposes a way to improve collections by allowing Maryland museums to establish title to property that has been donated or left with them after a loan period has terminated and the lender could not be found. The law allows more efficient use of museum funds and assists museums in conserving, displaying, and loaning abandoned, unclaimed, or unsolicited property.

Adopting the proposed policy would enable Maryland museums to more appropriately use their resources and better serve their communities. In adopting a policy and passing this legislation, Maryland will strengthen its commitment to its cultural institutions and heritage sites by correcting an under-acknowledged, yet critical, issue.

We respectfully urge you to support and approve Senate Bill 88.

Sincerely,



Julia Marciari-Alexander
Andrea B. & John H. Laporte Director



January 7, 2020

Honorable Dereck D. Davis, Chair
Economic Matters Committee
217 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Delegate Davis:

Please accept this letter in support of House Bill 21, entitled *Abandoned Property in Possession of a Museum*.

Well-constructed abandoned cultural property laws allow cultural institutions to effectively manage the priceless community resources with which they have been entrusted. The need for a legal framework for establishing clear title for abandoned objects has been recognized by most states. Maryland, however, is one of only four states that does not have any legal process for managing abandoned cultural property.

Museum professionals throughout the state acknowledge this is a critical issue. Abandoned cultural property cannot be loaned or conserved. Not only are valuable financial and staff resources being used to store and care for objects that cannot be used, but the lack of legal recourse poses an ethical dilemma. Abandoned cultural property in museums occupies valuable space that should instead be used for objects that better fulfill a museum's mission to serve the public.

There is a simple remedy to this problem. House Bill 21 proposes a way to improve collections by allowing Maryland museums to establish title to property that has been donated or left with them after a loan period has terminated and the lender could not be found. The law allows more efficient use of museum funds and assists museums in conserving, displaying, and loaning abandoned, unclaimed, or unsolicited property.

Adopting the proposed policy would enable Maryland museums to more appropriately use their resources and better serve their communities. In adopting a policy and passing this legislation, Maryland will strengthen its commitment to its cultural institutions and heritage sites by correcting an under-acknowledged, yet critical, issue.

We sincerely thank you for your sponsorship of House Bill 21. We urge the reviewing committee to vote favorably on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Christine Dietze", is written over the word "Sincerely,".

Christine Dietze
Chief Operating Officer
T 443 573 1838



HISTORIC ANNAPOLIS

Historic Annapolis, Inc.
James Brice House
42 East Street
Annapolis, MD 21401
410.267.7619
410.626.1030 Fax

January 7, 2020

Honorable Dereck D. Davis, Chair
Economic Matters Committee
217 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Delegate Davis,

Please accept this letter in support of House Bill 21, entitled Abandoned Property in Possession of a Museum.

Well-constructed abandoned cultural property laws allow cultural institutions to effectively manage the priceless community resources with which they have been entrusted. The need for a legal framework for establishing clear title for abandoned objects has been recognized by most states. Maryland, however, is one of only four states that does not have any legal process for managing abandoned cultural property.

Museum professionals throughout the state acknowledge this is a critical issue. Abandoned cultural property cannot be loaned or conserved. Not only are valuable financial and staff resources being used to store and care for objects that cannot be used, but the lack of legal recourse poses an ethical dilemma. Abandoned cultural property in museums occupies valuable space that should instead be used for objects that better fulfill a museum's mission to serve the public.

There is a simple remedy to this problem. House Bill 21 proposes a way to improve collections by allowing Maryland museums to establish title to property that has been donated or left with them after a loan period has terminated and the lender could not be found. The law allows more efficient use of museum funds and assists museums in conserving, displaying, and loaning abandoned, unclaimed, or unsolicited property.

Adopting the proposed policy would enable Maryland museums to more appropriately use their resources and better serve their communities. In adopting a policy and passing this legislation, Maryland will strengthen its commitment to its cultural institutions and heritage sites by correcting an under-acknowledged, yet critical, issue.

Historic Annapolis sincerely thanks you for your sponsorship of House Bill 21. We urge the reviewing committee to vote favorably on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Robert C. Clark
President & CEO

PRESERVE.
PROTECT.
CONNECT.

www.annapolis.org



1774

HAMMOND - HARWOOD HOUSE

January 7, 2020

Honorable Dereck D. Davis, Chair
Economic Matters Committee
217 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Delegate Davis

Please accept this letter in support of House Bill 21, entitled Abandoned Property in Possession of a Museum.

Well-constructed abandoned cultural property laws allow cultural institutions to effectively manage the priceless community resources with which they have been entrusted. The need for a legal framework for establishing clear title for abandoned objects has been recognized by most states. Maryland, however, is one of only four states that does not have any legal process for managing abandoned cultural property.

Museum professionals throughout the state acknowledge this is a critical issue. Abandoned cultural property cannot be loaned or conserved. Not only are valuable financial and staff resources being used to store and care for objects that cannot be used, but the lack of legal recourse poses an ethical dilemma. Abandoned cultural property in museums occupies valuable space that should instead be used for objects that better fulfill a museum's mission to serve the public.

There is a simple remedy to this problem. House Bill 21 proposes a way to improve collections by allowing Maryland museums to establish title to property that has been donated or left with them after a loan period has terminated and the lender could not be found. The law allows more efficient use of museum funds and assists museums in conserving, displaying, and loaning abandoned, unclaimed, or unsolicited property.

Adopting the proposed policy would enable Maryland museums to more appropriately use their resources and better serve their communities. In adopting a policy and passing this legislation, Maryland will strengthen its commitment to its cultural institutions and heritage sites by correcting an under-acknowledged, yet critical, issue.

We sincerely thank you for your sponsorship of House Bill 21. We urge the reviewing committee to vote favorably on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Rachel Lavett

19 Maryland Avenue • Annapolis, Maryland 21401 • 410-263-4683 • FAX 410-267-6891
www.hammondharwoodhouse.org

Please remember the Hammond-Harwood House in your estate plans.



National Museum of Civil War Medicine

48 East Patrick Street, P.O. Box 470
Frederick, Maryland 21705
(301) 695-1864

January 7, 2020

Honorable Dereck D. Davis, Chair
Economic Matters Committee
217 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Delegate Davis,

Please accept this letter in support of House Bill 21, entitled Abandoned Property in Possession of a Museum.

Well-constructed abandoned cultural property laws allow cultural institutions to effectively manage the priceless community resources with which they have been entrusted. The need for a legal framework for establishing clear title for abandoned objects has been recognized by most states. Maryland, however, is one of only four states that does not have any legal process for managing abandoned cultural property.

Museum professionals throughout the state acknowledge this is a critical issue. Abandoned cultural property cannot be loaned or conserved. Not only are valuable financial and staff resources being used to store and care for objects that cannot be used, but the lack of legal recourse poses an ethical dilemma. Abandoned cultural property in museums occupies valuable space that should instead be used for objects that better fulfill a museum's mission to serve the public.

There is a simple remedy to this problem. House Bill 21 proposes a way to improve collections by allowing Maryland museums to establish title to property that has been donated or left with them after a loan period has terminated and the lender could not be found. The law allows more efficient use of museum funds and assists museums in conserving, displaying, and loaning abandoned, unclaimed, or unsolicited property.

Adopting the proposed policy would enable Maryland museums to more appropriately use their resources and better serve their communities. In adopting a policy and passing this legislation, Maryland will strengthen its commitment to its cultural institutions and heritage sites by correcting an under-acknowledged, yet critical, issue.

We sincerely thank you for your sponsorship of House Bill 21. We urge the reviewing committee to vote favorably on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Karen Whitehair
Collections Manager



January 7, 2020

Honorable Dereck D. Davis, Chair
Economic Matters Committee
217 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401



Dear Delegate Davis,

Please accept this letter in support of House Bill 21, entitled Abandoned Property in Possession of a Museum.

Well-constructed abandoned cultural property laws allow cultural institutions to effectively manage the priceless community resources with which they have been entrusted. The need for a legal framework for establishing clear title for abandoned objects has been recognized by most states. Maryland, however, is one of only four states that does not have any legal process for managing abandoned cultural property.

Museum professionals throughout the state acknowledge this is a critical issue. Abandoned cultural property cannot be loaned or conserved. Not only are valuable financial and staff resources being used to store and care for objects that cannot be used, but the lack of legal recourse poses an ethical dilemma. Abandoned cultural property in museums occupies valuable space that should instead be used for objects that better fulfill a museum's mission to serve the public.

There is a simple remedy to this problem. House Bill 21 proposes a way to improve collections by allowing Maryland museums to establish title to property that has been donated or left with them after a loan period has terminated and the lender could not be found. The law allows more efficient use of museum funds and assists museums in conserving, displaying, and loaning abandoned, unclaimed, or unsolicited property.

Adopting the proposed policy would enable Maryland museums to more appropriately use their resources and better serve their communities. In adopting a policy and passing this legislation, Maryland will strengthen its commitment to its cultural institutions and heritage sites by correcting an under-acknowledged, yet critical, issue.

We sincerely thank you for your sponsorship of House Bill 21. We urge the reviewing committee to vote favorably on this critical issue.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Allison Weiss".

Allison Weiss, Executive Director



MARYLAND VETERANS MUSEUM at Patriot Park
“Remembering and Honoring America’s Heroes”

January 21, 2020

Honorable Dereck D. Davis, Chair
Economic Matters Committee
217 House Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Delegate Davis,

Please accept this letter in support of House Bill 21, entitled Abandoned Property in Possession of a Museum.

Well-constructed abandoned cultural property laws allow cultural institutions to effectively manage the priceless community resources with which they have been entrusted. The need for a legal framework for establishing clear title for abandoned objects has been recognized by most states. Maryland, however, is one of only four states that does not have any legal process for managing abandoned cultural property.

Museum professionals throughout the state acknowledge this is a critical issue. Abandoned cultural property cannot be loaned or conserved. Not only are valuable financial and staff resources being used to store and care for objects that cannot be used, but the lack of legal recourse poses an ethical dilemma. Abandoned cultural property in museums occupies valuable space that should instead be used for objects that better fulfill a museum’s mission to serve the public.

There is a simple remedy to this problem. House Bill 21 proposes a way to improve collections by allowing Maryland museums to establish title to property that has been donated or left with them after a loan period has terminated and the lender could not be found. The law allows more efficient use of museum funds and assists museums in conserving, displaying, and loaning abandoned, unclaimed, or unsolicited property.

Physical Address: 11000 Crain Highway Newburg, MD 20664
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2123 La Plata, MD 20646

Honorable Dereck D. Davis
January 21, 2020
Page 2 of 2

Adopting the proposed policy would enable Maryland museums to more appropriately use their resources and better serve their communities. In adopting a policy and passing this legislation, Maryland will strengthen its commitment to its cultural institutions and heritage sites by correcting an under-acknowledged, yet critical, issue.

We respectfully urge you to support House Bill 21.

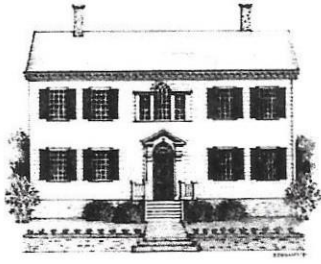
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lawrence Abell", with a long, sweeping flourish extending to the right.

Lawrence Abell, President
Maryland Veterans Museum

LCA/cck

cc: Former Senator Mac Middleton
Former Delegate Danny Mayer



Circa 1805

Friends of Poplar Hill Mansion

117 Elizabeth Street • Salisbury, Maryland 21801

Phone (410) 749-1776 • www.poplarhillmansion.org

January 9, 2020

Honorable William C. Smith, Jr., Chair
Judicial Proceedings Committee
2 East
Miller Senate Office Building
Annapolis, MD 21401

Dear Senator Smith,

Please accept this letter in support of Senate Bill 88, entitled Abandoned Property in Possession of a Museum.

Well-constructed abandoned cultural property laws allow cultural institutions to effectively manage the priceless community resources with which they have been entrusted. The need for a legal framework for establishing clear title for abandoned objects has been recognized by most states. Maryland, however, is one of only four states that does not have any legal process for managing abandoned cultural property.

Museum professionals throughout the state acknowledge this is a critical issue. Abandoned cultural property cannot be loaned or conserved. Not only are valuable financial and staff resources being used to store and care for objects that cannot be used, but the lack of legal recourse poses an ethical dilemma. Abandoned cultural property in museums occupies valuable space that should instead be used for objects that better fulfill a museum's mission to serve the public.

There is a simple remedy to this problem. Senate Bill 88 proposes a way to improve collections by allowing Maryland museums to establish title to property that has been donated or left with them after a loan period has terminated and the lender could not be found. The law allows more efficient use of museum funds and assists museums in conserving, displaying, and loaning abandoned, unclaimed, or unsolicited property.

Adopting the proposed policy would enable Maryland museums to more appropriately use their resources and better serve their communities. In adopting a policy and passing this legislation, Maryland will strengthen its commitment to its cultural institutions and heritage sites by correcting an under-acknowledged, yet critical, issue.

We respectfully urge you to support Senate Bill 88.

Sincerely,

Sarah M. Meyers, Curator, Poplar Hill Mansion