

SB660.Written Testimony from Maryland Humanities f

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Position: FAV



Senate Budget & Taxation Committee

Testimony from Maryland Humanities re:
SB660

February 17, 2021

Maryland Humanities offers this testimony in support of proposed SB660. This bill would update language in Article – Business Regulation, Section 11–403(a)(9), Annotated Code of Maryland (2015 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement) and Article – State Government, Section 9–120(b)(1), Annotated Code of Maryland (2014 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement).

Maryland Humanities was very fortunate to be included in the original legislation, HB 965 (2016), which provided \$150,000 annually for two years (FY18 and FY19) to support our service to Marylanders via our programs, including Maryland History Day.

During the 2018 Session, SB1158/HB1721 was passed, removing the end date for the funding specified in the original legislation, which also included incentive monies for the Maryland International and Preakness Stakes and funding for the Maryland Stadium Authority’s youth and amateur sporting events grants, in addition to Maryland Humanities. However, the language included in the 2018 bill created an issue, discovered in early FY20, which prevented the grant from being provided by the State even though it was clear the Maryland General Assembly unanimously passed the bill specifying the funding be perpetual.

Working with Secretary Brinkley and his team at the Department of Budget & Management, a solution was found during FY20, and for FY21 and proposed for FY22 Gov. Hogan generously included the \$150,000 in a separate annual grant using monies from the general fund received via the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) in the Maryland Department of Planning (MDP).

Through this bill, we simply seek to have the funding for this annual grant specified and ensured for the long-term, to take effect at a date mutually agreeable to all. To reiterate, Gov. Hogan has once again included an additional \$150,000 to our proposed MHT grant for FY22.

Maryland Humanities' programs consistently reach more than a quarter-million Marylanders statewide and did so again in 2020—despite the massive disruptions posed by the pandemic. We offered more than 1,000 events last year, both in-person and virtual, with direct participation by more than 83,400 and additional audience of 192,000 thanks to grant-supported events and mass communications including radio broadcasts.

We have been able to accelerate our program service thanks to the enhanced resources offered by this \$150,000 grant received each year since FY18.

Since 1999, **Maryland History Day** has gathered hundreds of thousands of middle and high school students to conduct intensive research projects that interpret historic events of local, national, and global significance. Nearly 600 students competed at the state level, and five times in recent years Maryland has had national Gold Medalists, from Allegany, Calvert, Garrett, and Howard Counties. In the three completed years we've had the funding, more than nearly 83,000 students have participated at the classroom level, including more than 33,000 from all 23 counties and Baltimore City during the 2019–20 school year, an all-time high. Funds have provided cash stipends to participating school districts to administer county contests and supported in-school outreach visits offering professional development to teachers and mentoring to students, among other program costs.

This funding also has supported our Museum on Main Street, One Maryland One Book, and Grants programs.

Through **Museum on Main Street**, small communities benefit from the immense resources of the Smithsonian Institution as they experience mobile interactive exhibitions focused on America's history. Host organizations create locally focused companion exhibits and events. We wrapped a six-county tour of *Water/Ways* in Prince Frederick last March, with more than 42,500 visitors and participants. This April we'll launch the next tour exploring voting rights and democracy, *Voices & Votes*, which will visit Allegany, Queen Anne's, Wicomico, Montgomery, and Baltimore counties. Funds have supported pre-tour capacity building workshops and consultants for host organizations and community partners and allowed for cash stipends to enhance locally generated programming that complements the Smithsonian exhibition, among other program costs.

One Maryland One Book is the state's only statewide reading and discussion program. Each fall the program for high school-age readers and up inspires thousands of students and adults to read and discuss a book relevant to the challenges of life today. Each year since 2018, we have provided more than 4,000 free books to public high schools and 4,000 to public library systems, impacting more than 10,000 students and thousands more adults. Funds have provided school and library outreach activities and discussion facilitator training, among other program costs.

Our **Grants** program funds innovative humanities initiatives at organizations both large and small throughout the state. Our major and mini grants—paid for with funding received from the State including a portion of the \$150,000 grant—totaled \$147,921 in 2020, benefitting 28 community organizations. Examples of recent grantees include:

- Lost Towns Project (Anne Arundel)
- Historic Hampton (Baltimore)
- Catoctin Furnace Historical Society (Frederick)
- Patapsco Heritage Greenway (Howard)
- Historic Takoma (Montgomery)
- The United Covenant Union (Somerset)
- Urban Rural Action (Washington)

In addition to an annual appropriation from the National Endowment for the Humanities, these programs and others are also funded in part with private contributions from corporations, foundations, and individuals. With additional in-kind contributions from hundreds of local program partners and grantees in all 23 counties and Baltimore City, **we typically leverage the State of Maryland's investment between four and six times over.**

We respectfully ask the members of the committee to approve the bill to ensure that the overwhelming mandate of the Maryland General Assembly to provide this funding annually is fulfilled.

SB 660 MD Humanities Council-Funding (Guzzone) B&T

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Position: INFO

LARRY HOGAN
Governor

BOYD K. RUTHERFORD
Lieutenant Governor



DAVID R. BRINKLEY
Secretary

MARC L. NICOLE
Deputy Secretary

SENATE BILL 660 State Lottery Fund – Maryland Humanities Council – Funding (Guzzone)

STATEMENT OF INFORMATION

DATE: February 17, 2021

COMMITTEE: Senate Budget & Taxation

SUMMARY OF BILL: SB 660 repeals the distribution of \$150,000 to the Maryland Humanities Council from the Racing Special Fund and makes the \$150,000 distribution from the Lottery Fund.

EXPLANATION: The distribution of \$150,000 to the Maryland Humanities Council (MHC) from the Racing Special Fund was repealed with the enactment of Ch. 184/185 of 2018. While the sponsor's intent may be to remedy that inadvertent termination of funding for the MHC, the Department of Budget and Management (DBM) has consistently funded MHC in the amount of \$150,000.

Prior to the enactment of Ch. 184/Ch. 185 of 2018, revenue had come from the State Lottery Fund to the Racing Special Fund in the Department of Labor and then was transferred to the Department of Planning who provided the actual grant to the Humanities Council. DBM was made aware by the Maryland Humanities Council, the Department of Labor and Department of Planning that the \$150,000 in Racing Special Fund revenues was no longer available for distribution to the MHC

To ensure the MHC continued to receive a \$150,000 grant to offset the special fund revenue shortfall, DBM agreed to provide \$150,000 in General Funds to the Maryland Humanities Council. That funding continues in FY 2022. Below is a history of funding for MHC:

MD Humanities Council Funding FY17-FY22

FY17 - \$0

FY18 - \$150,000 (RF)*

FY19 - \$150,000 (RF)*

FY20 - \$150,000 (RF)*

FY21 - \$150,000 (GF)

FY22 - \$150,000 (GF)

*FY 2018 - FY 2020 are reimbursable funds because the funding was going from the Division of Racing through the Department of Planning and then to the MD Humanities Council. Beginning in FY 2021, General Funds were provided to offset the revenue loss from the Special Racing Fund.

The Department of Legislative Services FY 2021 budget analysis for the Department of Planning confirms the change in funding for the MHC. MHC also receives a separate grant in the amount of \$107,000 that also continues to be funded.

DBM brings this matter to the committee's attention to ensure that passage of this legislation does not have the unintended effect of doubling the \$150,000 grant funding for MHC.

**For additional information, contact Barbara Wilkins at
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