

SenatorBailey_FAV_SB946.pdf

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Position: FAV

JACK BAILEY
Legislative District 29
Calvert and St. Mary's Counties

Judicial Proceedings Committee



THE SENATE OF MARYLAND
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March 16, 2021

Senate Bill 946 – Historic St. Mary's City Fort to 400 Commission

Dear Chairman Pinsky and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to introduce Senate Bill 946, which would establish the Historic St. Mary's City Fort to 400 Commission. This Commission will be directed to plan and conduct observances commemorating the 400th anniversary of Maryland's founding in 2034.

The 400th anniversary of Maryland's founding will be a tremendous and important event for our entire State. For Historic St. Mary's City, however, it will be more than a great occasion. As the first colony in Maryland, Historic St. Mary's City will be at the center of these celebrations. This is not only a high honor and responsibility, it will also be an economic opportunity for the area. This Commission will be focused not only on the statewide celebration and the observances at St. Mary's City, but also on ensuring that we use this opportunity to the fullest to ensure the continued economic viability of Historic St. Mary's City and the surrounding area.

Beginning this work now will give the Commission ample time to ensure that it can meet all of its goals. It will also be advantageous as the Commission will be able to integrate exciting current developments at Historic St. Mary's City, particularly the discovery of St. Mary's Fort, with the future work of commemorating this 400th anniversary.

I have worked with the President of the Senate, a number of Governor Hogan's cabinet secretaries, and the outstanding staff of Historic St. Mary's City to put together this Commission. I would like to thank them for their contributions and attention to this important issue for St. Mary's County and District 29.

This bill has the support of the St. Mary's County Delegation. I respectfully request a favorable report on Senate Bill 946. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Bailey".

Senator Jack Bailey
District 29
Calvert and St. Mary's Counties

HSMCC SB946 TESTIMONY.pdf

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Position: FAV

HISTORIC ST. MARY'S CITY

A MUSEUM OF HISTORY & ARCHAEOLOGY AT
MARYLAND'S FIRST CAPITAL

Senate Bill 946
Historic St. Mary's City Fort to 400 Commission
Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee

Letter of Support

Dear Chairman Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, and Committee Members,

The Historic St. Mary's City Commission is in full and enthusiastic support of SB946 - Historic St. Mary's City Fort to 400 Commission and appreciates Senator Bailey for introducing this legislation.

A 400th anniversary of the founding of our beloved Terra Marie is so very significant, exciting, and will require a great deal of planning and effort to make it the success that it deserves. The Commission established by SB946 will lead the planning efforts to observe and celebrate Maryland's 400th anniversary in 2034.

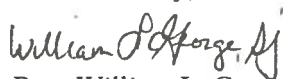
The Bill's preamble states that it "is in the interest of Marylanders to provide for appropriate activities to commemorate and maximize the understanding of residents and visitors about the founding of Maryland and its meaning to Marylanders, particularly of Maryland's leadership in establishing the principle of religious toleration" and aligns directly with the mission of the HSMC Commission which is "to preserve and protect the archaeological and historical record of Maryland's first colonial capital and to appropriately develop and use this historic and scenic site for the education, enjoyment, and general benefit of the public."

We appreciate the Bill's requirement that "As Maryland's first settlement and first capital, Historic St. Mary's City will play an important role in leading these observances." The outdoor living history museum commemorates and stewards the site of the fourth permanent English settlement in North America, Maryland's first city, the locus of ideas still important to Maryland, the nation and the world as the site where the Mathias De Sousa, the first man of African descent to participated in a legislature, Margaret Brent, the woman honored as first female attorney in the nation requested a vote an voice, and the birthplace of religious toleration that is now embodied in the US Constitution. Historic St. Mary's City (HSMC) has been recognized as a National Historic Landmark since 1969 and is one of Southern Maryland's leading tourism attractions.

The proposed Commission's charge to "provide leadership for and coordinate economic development opportunities in and around St. Mary's City to promote the region for future generations" will help realize St. Mary's County's Tourism and Hospitality Plan goal to further develop its tourism economy and Maryland's Statewide Preservation Plan's goal to "Enhance and foster the ability to learn more about Maryland heritage through public archaeology and archaeological collections [and through] public history and new technology" at the same time developing a world class historic site and attraction to benefit the County, Southern Maryland region, and our State.

We look forward to this legislation passing and to participating in the Fort to 400 Commission in the planning of this very special and historic anniversary celebration.

Most sincerely,



Rev. William L. George, S.J.
Chairman



Regina M. Faden, Ph.D.
Executive Director

P.O. BOX 39, ST. MARY'S CITY, MARYLAND 20686

SB 946 Historic St. Mary's City Fort to 400 Commis

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Position: INFO

Senate Bill 946
Historic St. Mary's City Fort to 400 Commission
Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee
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Letter of Support

Chair Pinsky, Vice Chair Kagan, and Committee Members,

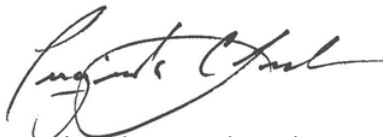
St. Mary's College of Maryland is pleased to provide a letter of support for Senate Bill 946 - Historic St. Mary's City Fort to 400 Commission. The Commission established by this Bill will lead the planning efforts to observe and celebrate Maryland's 400th anniversary in 2034.

St. Mary's College of Maryland was founded as a living monument to Maryland's first capital, St. Mary's City, by the Maryland State Legislature in 1840. Situated within the historic townlands of Maryland's first capital, the College embraces its responsibility for the stewardship of its historic setting and to provide excellent educational and community programs that relate to the legacy of this very special historical site.

Since 1997, St. Mary's College of Maryland and Historic St. Mary's City have been affiliated through legislation "... to undertake joint programs and otherwise to work collaboratively...for the purpose of furthering the missions of both institutions." Over the past two decades, the College and Historic St. Mary's City have developed a strong and successful relationship, implementing significant joint academic and community programs, such as The Center for the Study of Democracy. College faculty, staff, and students work side-by-side with Historic St. Mary's City staff to advance research, deliver instruction, and to provide community programming. In addition, the College and Historic St. Mary's City have collaboratively supported each other in their land-use and capital development programs through shared use of property, facilities, and infrastructure.

St. Mary's College of Maryland appreciates the Bill requirement to include a representative of the College to serve as a member of the Commission. We believe our unique expertise will be a valuable asset to the State and to the Commission in preparing for this most significant event - Maryland's 400th Anniversary.

Thank you for the opportunity to share our thoughts on Senate Bill 946.



Tuajuanda C. Jordan, PhD
President