

# HISTORIC ST. MARY'S CITY

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

## House Bill 1364 Historic St. Mary's City Fort to 400 Commission Rules and Executive Nominations

### Letter of Support

Dear Chair Healey, Vice Chair Holmes, 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 and exciting and will require a great deal of planning and effort to make it the success that it deserves. The Commission established by HB1364 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 and for sixty-one years, its colonial capital. 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 archeology 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

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