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OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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BILL: **House Bill 1048**
Commission on African American History and Culture - Alterations
(Senator Verda Welcome Act)

COMMITTEE: House Appropriations

DATE: March 10, 2022

POSITION: Letter of Information

Upon review of House Bill 1048 - Commission on African American History and Culture - Alterations (Senator Verda Welcome Act), the Maryland Department of General Services (DGS) provides these comments for your consideration.

This bill would require the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) to provide support to capital projects that receive funding from the African American Heritage Preservation Program. Given that MHT is not likely to possess the procurement authority and project management capacity to support capital projects, DGS anticipates it will be approached by MHT and/or the newly created Commission on African American History and Culture (AAHC) to procure vendors and perform project management services for capital projects. The bill language does not indicate who is responsible for project cost estimating, budgeting, prioritization of projects and approval of procured services.

The bill also provides an on-going annual commitment of funds to the AAHC Commission which implies an on-going workload of projects for DGS, impacting the workload of the agency. Additionally, the bill proposes that projects may, at times, be funded strictly with non-state capital bond funds. If DGS were asked to handle such funded projects, there could be conflicts with State procurement laws which DGS is obligated to comply with and operate under.

For additional information, contact Ellen Robertson at 410-260-2908.

