



Maryland DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

HEARING DATE: February 25th at 1:00 PM

BILL NO: HB 1010

COMMITTEE: Appropriations

POSITION: Favorable

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Andrew Wilson (443) 721-6789

TITLE: African American Heritage Preservation Program and Grant Fund – Noncapital Grants and Donations

BILL ANALYSIS:

HB1010 makes changes to the existing African American Heritage Preservation (AAHP) Grant Program, a program that is jointly administered by the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture and the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT). The bill creates a new category of grants called "African American Heritage Preservation Noncapital Grants" for the purpose of preserving or sharing African American history or culture in the State. The bill authorizes the Secretary of MDP to award money received into the AAHP Fund from "grants and donations" for these noncapital grants. In those cases where all eligible noncapital grants have been awarded, if there are funds leftover, then those funds can support African American Heritage Preservation Project grants which are capital projects.

POSITION AND RATIONALE:

African American heritage organizations face many unmet needs related to undertaking non-capital activities that support the identification and interpretation of African American historic resources. In its current form, the African American Heritage Preservation Grant Program cannot provide this type of financial assistance as its focus is on capital projects only. MDP supports changes to the program set forth in this bill which creates a path forward for support for noncapital projects designed to preserve and share African American history and culture.

For these reasons, MDP urges a favorable report for HB 1010.

