



POSITION STATEMENT

Bill: HB 752 Commission on State and Local Government Real Property Bearing Confederate Names

Position: Support with Amendments

Date: March 4, 2025

Contact: Debra Borden, General Counsel

Jordan Baucum Colbert, Government Affairs Liaison

Dear Chair Joseline A. Pena-Melnyk and Vice Chair Bonnie Cullison,

What this Bill Does. This bill establishes the Commission on State and Local Government Real Property Bearing Confederate Names.

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (“M-NCPPC” or the “Commission”) has not officially voted on whether to support HB 752. However, during the 2024 Maryland General Assembly legislative session, the Commission voted to support HB 566 with amendments. The current version of this bill (HB 752) addresses the majority of the technical and timing issues the Commission raised with last year’s bill. The one additional suggestion is to consider expanding the definition of Confederate Names and Political Subdivision as indicated below.

Background Information. Montgomery Planning has a great deal of experience with street renaming efforts. The department worked at the behest of the County Council to [rename three streets](#) in 2021 – these were three streets in Montgomery County named for Confederate soldiers that are now named after historic African American residents. Prince George’s Planning also has experience with conducting research related to street renaming.

Dedication to dismantling systemic racism. The Commission is committed to the goals of this Bill. In 2020, at the direction of the County Council, Montgomery Planning undertook a review of county-owned and maintained streets and park facilities to identify those named after known Confederates. After over a year of research, three streets that had full name Confederate matches were renamed to honor local African American historical figures. It is a large undertaking involving: i)

researching military rosters, pension records, census data, cemetery records, property and tax records, news articles, and other secondary sources; ii) cross-referencing data with street and park names; iii) working with the property owners along the streets to inform them of the process, receive input on new names, and provide support for changing of their address information in public records; and iv) coordination with police, fire and rescue, as well as county agencies regarding signage and mapping. There is more work to be done and the Commission supports this effort. In Prince George's County the Planning Department served on the County's Responsible Legacy Task Force; below is a link to their final report - <https://pgccouncil.us/DocumentCenter/View/7510/RLTF-Final-Report>

AMENDMENTS

9-4101.

- (A) In this Subtitle, the following words have the meanings indicated.
- (B) "Confederate Name" means ~~a~~ **ANY** name that commemorates **OR REFERENCES ANY ASPECT OF THE STATES IN REBELLION OPERATING AS THE** Confederate States of America **FROM 1861 THROUGH 1865** or any person **OR ENTITY** who **OR WHICH** served voluntarily with **OR ON BEHALF OF** the Confederate States of America **IN ANY MILITARY OR CIVILIAN CAPACITY**.
- (C) "Political subdivision" means: (1) a County; (2) a municipal corporation; (3) an unincorporated town; (4) a school district; ~~or~~ (5) a special district.; **OR (6) THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL PARK AND PLANNING COMMISSION.**
- (D) "Real Property" includes streets, buildings, parks, and subdivisions.
- (E) "State entity" includes all units and agencies in the executive, legislative, and judicial branches of State government.