

MATTHEW J. SCHINDLER
Legislative District 2B
Washington County

Government, Labor, and
Elections Committee

Subcommittees

Government Operations and Ethics
Labor

Local Government/Bi-County Agencies
and Administration

House Study Group on Economic Stability



The Maryland House of Delegates
6 Bladen Street, Room 221
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
410-841-3125
800-492-7122 Ext. 3125
Matthew.Schindler@house.maryland.gov

THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

HB160: State and Local Government – Real Property – Confederate Naming Prohibited
Education, Energy and Environment Committee

April 2nd, 2026: 1:00 PM

Mr. Chair, Madam Vice-Chair, and honorable members of the committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify today. For the record, I am Delegate Matthew J. Schindler, and I am here to present House Bill 160.

HB160 prohibits the State or political subdivision of the State from assigning Confederate names to public property. Let me be clear: there is absolutely no reason for Maryland to continue honoring or edifying the Confederacy through the names of our streets, buildings, parks, or public spaces.

Confederate names have a place in textbooks, museums, and on battlefields where history is examined and taught. They do not belong on the signs that mark our neighborhoods, schools, or civic spaces. These names are symbols of a rebellion fought to preserve slavery and represent a dark chapter in our nation's history. For many Marylanders they are a source of deep and ongoing pain.

The names we choose for public property are statements about who we honor and what we value. Our public spaces should reflect Maryland's shared values of inclusion, equality, and respect—not symbols that divide, exclude, or glorify oppression. Continuing to affix Confederate names to public property does not preserve history; it elevates it in ways that are inappropriate and unnecessary.

This bill is simple, forward-looking, and carries no cost. It does not erase history, it places it where it belongs, as something to be studied and learned from, not celebrated. HB 160 ensures that future naming decisions align with our values and prevents the continued public honoring of Confederate symbolism.

For these reasons, I respectfully ask for a favorable report on House Bill 160.

Respectfully,

Matthew J. Schindler

Delegate Matthew J. Schindler

District 2B