



THE MARYLAND-NATIONAL CAPITAL  
Park and Planning Commission

## **POSITION STATEMENT**

**Bill:** HB 47 Commission on State and Local Government Real Property Bearing Confederate Names - Establishment

**Position:** Informational

**Date:** February 10, 2026

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Dear Chair Melissa Wells,

The Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission (M-NCPPC or “the Commission”) has not voted on this bill. However, staff have prepared an informational statement and some suggested recommendations.

**What the Bill Does.** This bill establishes the Commission on State and Local Government Real Property Bearing Confederate Names to develop and implement a framework to identify real property owned by the State or a political subdivision that bears a Confederate name. It also requires the Commission to hire an archivist (to be an employee of the State Archives) to assist with this work and ultimately make recommendations regarding the real property that should be renamed, and report its findings to the Governor, the Mayor and City Council of Baltimore City, the governing body of each county, and the General Assembly by October 1, 2033.

**Creates a Centralized Process.** M-NCPPC is committed to the goals of this bill and is **dedicated** to dismantling systemic racism. This bill creates a statewide, centralized process for identifying and evaluating public properties with Confederate names, which means Montgomery and Prince George’s Planning Departments may need to supply data, coordinate with the new Commission, and prepare for future renaming recommendations. While the bill does not mandate immediate renaming or impose direct operational changes, it sets up a long-term framework that could eventually require both Montgomery and Prince George’s Counties to rename parks,

facilities, or other M-NCPPC owned properties if they fall under the Commission's criteria. The main impact is administrative: gathering information, participating in the statewide inventory, and planning for potential renaming actions once the Commission issues its recommendations in 2033.

**Montgomery County Planning Efforts.** 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. Given the scale and scope of this undertaking, the archivist position is vital.

**Prince George's Planning Efforts. In Prince George's County the Planning Department served on the County's Responsible Legacy Taskforce. Below is a link to their final report.**  
- <https://pgccouncil.us/DocumentCenter/View/7510/RLTF-Final-Report>

**M-NCPPC's Legislative Participation in the Confederate Renaming Process.** During the 2024 and 2025 Maryland General Assembly legislative sessions, the Commission proposed suggested recommendations to this bill that would further help support developing and implementing a framework to identify real property owned by the State or a political subdivision that bears a Confederate name. This year, the bill sponsor has kindly added language to the bill that reflects the Commission's recommendations.