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Government, Labor, and
Elections Committee

Subcommittees

Government Operations and Ethics
Labor

Local Government/Bi-County Agencies
and Administration

House Study Group on Economic Stability



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THE MARYLAND HOUSE OF DELEGATES
ANNAPOLIS, MARYLAND 21401

**HB47: Commission on State and Local Government Real Property Bearing
Confederate Names
Government, Labor and Elections
February 10th 2026: 1:00 PM**

Madam Chair, Mr. Vice-Chair, and honorable members of the committee thank you so much for the opportunity to speak today. For the record I am Delegate Matthew J. Schindler, and I am here to present House Bill 47. HB47 would establish a state-wide commission that would research and identify county and state-owned streets, parks, and other publicly owned entities that bear Confederate names. The commission would consist of 24 members, one from each jurisdiction who are appointed by the Governor along with a state archivist who would provide administrative assistance. The commission will submit a report of their findings to the Governor and all 24 local jurisdictions by 2033. The commission itself will only be tasked with identifying public properties that bear Confederate names; it has no authority to rename public property.

The state of Maryland would not be the first jurisdiction to pursue such an initiative. In 2021, the Department of Defense formed the Naming Commission to rename their assets associated with Confederate individuals. Aside from their military assets, the commission identified hundreds of other assets such as streets and buildings that were recommended to be renamed. Multiple local entities such as Loudon County VA, the City of Alexandria, and Montgomery County MD have all begun the process of renaming their streets that are commemorative of Confederate leaders.

The commission's task would be reflective of Maryland's goal to be inclusive and ensure that our schools, streets, and parks are not commemorative of Confederate individuals. In many cases around the country, the naming of public properties in honor of Confederate individuals became popular decades after the Civil War as a backlash to the Civil Rights movement. The history of our country has a place in textbooks, museums, and national battlefields where context is provided in understanding who these individuals were. That place is not our state roads and buildings.

Whether these streets and buildings in our state were named in Civil rights era defiance, or simply due to proximity to significant Civil War sites with no ill-intent, all Marylanders

should live, work, and play in spaces that are welcoming and reflective of our shared values.

Therefore, I ask for a favorable report on HB47.