



POSITION STATEMENT

Bill: HB 160 State and Local Government - Real Property - Confederate Naming Prohibited

Position: Support with Amendments

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 voted to support this bill with amendments.

What the Bill Does. This bill prohibits a State entity or a political subdivision of the State from assigning a Confederate name to real property owned by the State or political subdivision.

Prohibits Prospective Naming for Confederate Commemoration. The Commission is committed to the goals of this bill and is dedicated to dismantling systemic racism. This bill prohibits the prospective assignment of Confederate names to any real property owned by the state or its political subdivisions. Confederate names are defined in the bill as any name that “commemorates the Confederate States of America or any person who served voluntarily with the Confederate States of America.” We propose a few minor amendments as noted below.

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.

The effort 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.

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, for this version of the bill, the Commission still recommends the bill sponsor to make the following changes (as the sponsors of HB 47 have made to the current version of their bill).

Recommendations

AMENDMENTS

9-101.

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.