

HOUSE BILL 119

P1
HB 1294/19 – HRU

01r0385

By: **Delegates Rosenberg, Attar, Bridges, and Conaway**

Introduced and read first time: January 13, 2020

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Commission on African American Patriots in the American Revolutionary War**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Commission on African American Patriots in the
4 American Revolutionary War; providing for the composition, chair, staffing, and
5 office space of the Commission; providing for the compensation of the chair of the
6 Commission; providing that a member of the Commission is entitled to receive a
7 certain stipend under certain circumstances; requiring that the staff provided to the
8 Commission be adequately funded to perform certain duties; authorizing the
9 Commission to raise funds for its operation; requiring the Commission, in
10 consultation with certain persons, to conduct research to advance the documentation
11 of African American patriots in the American Revolutionary War; requiring the
12 Commission to determine and send to the county boards of education certain
13 information; requiring the Commission to use certain research in determining the
14 information to be sent to the county boards of education under a certain provision of
15 this Act and in developing a certain publication; requiring the Commission to develop
16 and print a certain publication; requiring the Commission to assemble a certain
17 inventory of sites; requiring the Commission to develop a plan to commemorate
18 Maryland African American patriots in the American Revolutionary War through
19 the placement of statues, landmark plaques, or historical markers; requiring the
20 Commission to work with the Department of General Services to implement a certain
21 plan; requiring that the collection in each public school library or media center
22 include a certain publication on Maryland African American patriots in the
23 American Revolutionary War; authorizing each county board of education to provide
24 instruction on Maryland African American patriots in the American Revolutionary
25 War as part of the social studies curriculum in primary and secondary public schools
26 in the county; requiring a county board, under certain circumstances, to consider
27 information sent by the Commission in developing its instruction on Maryland
28 African American patriots in the American Revolutionary War; providing for the
29 termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Commission on African
30 American Patriots in the American Revolutionary War.

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
2 Article – Education
3 Section 7–106(b)
4 Annotated Code of Maryland
5 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

6 BY adding to
7 Article – Education
8 Section 7–446
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

11 BY adding to
12 Article – State Government
13 Section 9–3301 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 33. Commission on African
14 American Patriots in the American Revolutionary War”
15 Annotated Code of Maryland
16 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2019 Supplement)

17 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
18 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

19 **Article – Education**

20 7–106.

21 (b) (1) Each county board shall adopt procedures for the selection and
22 purchase for use in each public school library or media center of a collection of books and
23 auditory and visual materials concerning African American history.

24 (2) The collection in each library or media center shall [be]:

25 (I) BE appropriate for students in each age group and reading level
26 in the school; AND

27 (II) INCLUDE THE PUBLICATION ON MARYLAND AFRICAN
28 AMERICAN PATRIOTS IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR DEVELOPED AND
29 PRINTED UNDER § 9–3301(H) OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.

30 7–446.

31 (A) EACH COUNTY BOARD MAY PROVIDE INSTRUCTION ON AFRICAN
32 AMERICAN PATRIOTS IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR AS PART OF THE
33 SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM IN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN
34 THE COUNTY.

1 (B) IF A COUNTY BOARD ELECTS TO PROVIDE THE INSTRUCTION
2 AUTHORIZED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION, THE COUNTY BOARD SHALL
3 CONSIDER INFORMATION SENT BY THE COMMISSION ON AFRICAN AMERICAN
4 PATRIOTS IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR IN DEVELOPING THE
5 INSTRUCTION TO BE PROVIDED.

6 Article – State Government

7 SUBTITLE 33. COMMISSION ON AFRICAN AMERICAN PATRIOTS IN THE AMERICAN
8 REVOLUTIONARY WAR.

9 9–3301.

10 (A) THERE IS A COMMISSION ON AFRICAN AMERICAN PATRIOTS IN THE
11 AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR.

12 (B) THE COMMISSION CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

13 (1) THE STATE ARCHIVIST, OR THE ARCHIVIST’S DESIGNEE;

14 (2) THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION, OR THE SECRETARY’S
15 DESIGNEE; AND

16 (3) THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS, APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR:

17 (I) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE
18 STUDY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE AND HISTORY;

19 (II) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND CHAPTER OF
20 THE AFRO–AMERICAN HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY;

21 (III) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BALTIMORE CITY BOARD OF
22 EDUCATION;

23 (IV) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BLACKS OF THE
24 CHESAPEAKE FOUNDATION;

25 (V) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY;

26 (VI) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE AFRICAN AMERICAN
27 HERITAGE SOCIETY OF CHARLES COUNTY;

28 (VII) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF COPPIN STATE UNIVERSITY;

1 (VIII) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE HERITAGE MUSEUM;

2 (IX) TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MARYLAND COMMISSION
3 ON AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE;

4 (X) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY;

5 (XI) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
6 FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE;

7 (XII) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION
8 FOR BLACK VETERANS;

9 (XIII) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF
10 MARYLAND; AND

11 (XIV) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE ENOCH PRATT FREE
12 LIBRARY OF BALTIMORE.

13 (C) (1) THE CHAIR OF THE COMMISSION SHALL BE THE APPOINTED
14 MEMBER FROM THE HERITAGE MUSEUM.

15 (2) COMMISSION MEMBERS SHALL BE ENTITLED TO AN ANNUAL
16 STIPEND.

17 (D) (1) THE ENOCH PRATT FREE LIBRARY SHALL PROVIDE OFFICE
18 SPACE AND STAFF FOR THE COMMISSION.

19 (2) THE STAFF PROVIDED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS
20 SUBSECTION SHALL BE ADEQUATELY FUNDED TO CARRY OUT THE DUTIES OF THE
21 COMMISSION.

22 (3) THE COMMISSION SHALL HAVE THE AUTHORITY TO RAISE FUNDS
23 FOR ITS OPERATION, INCLUDING STIPENDS, STAFFING, DEVELOPMENT, AND
24 PROGRAMS.

25 (4) THE DUTIES OF THE STAFF PROVIDED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF
26 THIS SUBSECTION SHALL INCLUDE:

27 (I) ASSISTING THE COMMISSION IN ALL BUSINESS ACTIVITIES;

28 (II) PERFORMING ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES FOR THE
29 COMMISSION; AND

1 (III) ANY OTHER TASKS ASSIGNED BY THE COMMISSION CHAIR.

2 (E) BEGINNING IN FISCAL YEAR 2022 AND FOR THE IMMEDIATELY
3 FOLLOWING 3 FISCAL YEARS, A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION WHO SERVED ON THE
4 COMMISSION FOR THE IMMEDIATELY PRECEDING FISCAL YEAR SHALL BE ENTITLED
5 TO A STIPEND OF \$5,000.

6 (F) THE COMMISSION SHALL CONDUCT RESEARCH TO ADVANCE THE
7 DOCUMENTATION OF AFRICAN AMERICAN PATRIOTS IN THE AMERICAN
8 REVOLUTIONARY WAR IN CONSULTATION WITH:

9 (1) THE MARYLAND STATE ARCHIVES;

10 (2) THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION;

11 (3) DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION;

12 (4) REGIONAL HISTORICAL GENEALOGICAL SOCIETIES;

13 (5) UNIVERSITY FACULTIES;

14 (6) LIBRARIES;

15 (7) THE LIBRARY OF CONGRESS; AND

16 (8) MARYLAND CENTENARIAN AFRICAN AMERICAN CHURCHES.

17 (G) (1) THE COMMISSION SHALL DETERMINE AND SEND TO THE COUNTY
18 BOARDS OF EDUCATION THE INFORMATION THAT MAY BE USED IN PROVIDING THE
19 INSTRUCTION AUTHORIZED UNDER § 7-446 OF THE EDUCATION ARTICLE
20 REGARDING AFRICAN AMERICAN PATRIOTS IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY
21 WAR.

22 (2) THE COMMISSION SHALL USE THE RESEARCH CONDUCTED
23 UNDER SUBSECTION (F) OF THIS SECTION IN DETERMINING THE INFORMATION TO
24 BE SENT TO THE COUNTY BOARDS OF EDUCATION UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS
25 SUBSECTION.

26 (H) (1) THE COMMISSION SHALL DEVELOP AND PRINT A PUBLICATION
27 ON THE HISTORY AND RECORDS OF THE MARYLAND AFRICAN AMERICAN PATRIOTS
28 IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR.

1 **(2) IN DEVELOPING THE PUBLICATION UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF**
2 **THIS SUBSECTION, THE COMMISSION SHALL USE THE RESEARCH CONDUCTED**
3 **UNDER SUBSECTION (F) OF THIS SECTION.**

4 **(I) (1) THE COMMISSION SHALL ASSEMBLE AN INVENTORY OF SITES IN**
5 **THE STATE THAT ARE SIGNIFICANT FOR MARYLAND AFRICAN AMERICAN PATRIOTS**
6 **IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR.**

7 **(2) THE COMMISSION SHALL DEVELOP A PLAN TO COMMEMORATE**
8 **MARYLAND AFRICAN AMERICAN PATRIOTS IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY**
9 **WAR FOR THE SITES INVENTORIED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION**
10 **THROUGH THE PLACEMENT OF:**

11 **(I) STATUES;**

12 **(II) LANDMARK PLAQUES; OR**

13 **(III) HISTORICAL MARKERS.**

14 **(3) THE COMMISSION SHALL WORK WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF**
15 **GENERAL SERVICES TO IMPLEMENT THE PLAN DEVELOPED UNDER PARAGRAPH (2)**
16 **OF THIS SUBSECTION.**

17 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
18 October 1, 2020. It shall remain effective for a period of 5 years and, at the end of September
19 30, 2025, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be
20 abrogated and of no further force and effect.