

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2020 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Joint Resolution 12 (Delegate Mosby, *et al.*)
Rules and Executive Nominations

Commission to Rename Negro Mountain

This joint resolution requires the Governor, in consultation with the Maryland State Archives (MSA), the Maryland Geological Survey (MGS), and the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), to establish a commission to rename Negro Mountain in Garrett County. By December 31, 2020, the commission must inform the Governor, the General Assembly, MSA, MGS, and DNR of the new name selected for the mountain.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Compliance with the joint resolution can be absorbed within existing budgeted resources.

Local Effect: Potential minimal increase in local expenditures to change signs and maps.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Background: Maryland has more than 60 mountain ranges and hills, which are located largely in the western portion of the State. Negro Mountain is a 30-mile long ridge of the Allegheny Mountains extending from Garrett County, Maryland to Somerset County, Pennsylvania. The mountain rises to an elevation of 3,075 feet above sea level.

The U.S. Board on Geographic Names, which consists of representatives from several federal agencies, is charged with standardizing geographic names for use by the federal government. The board promulgates official geographic names and principles, policies, and procedures governing geographic name usage. According to the Maryland Department

of Planning, the Maryland Geographic Names Authority within the Maryland Historical Trust coordinates naming activity between local, State, and federal agencies, reviews geographic name proposals, and makes recommendations to the board.

Pennsylvania has considered similar legislation to rename the mountain in recent years.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HJ 10 of 2019 received a hearing in the House Rules and Executive Nominations Committee, but no further action was taken. HJ 8 of 2011, a similar joint resolution, received an unfavorable report from the House Rules and Executive Nominations Committee. Its cross file, SJ 3, received an unfavorable report from the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Governor's Office; Maryland State Archives; Maryland Department of Planning; U.S. Board on Geographic Names; Maryland Geological Survey; General Assembly of Pennsylvania; Department of Legislative Services

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