

Chapter 452

(Senate Bill 953)

AN ACT concerning

**Commission on African American History and Culture – Alterations
(Senator Verda Welcome Act)**

FOR the purpose of ~~requiring the Maryland Historical Trust to provide certain support to capital projects that received funding from the African American Heritage Preservation Program;~~ establishing the Commission on African American History and Culture as an independent agency; requiring the Governor to include ~~certain appropriations~~ a certain appropriation in the annual State budget bill; and generally relating to the Commission on African American History and Culture.

BY renumbering

Article – State Government
Section 9.5–401 through 9.5–408, respectively, and the subtitle “Subtitle 4.
Commission on African American History and Culture”
to be Section 9–3501 through 9–3508, respectively, and the subtitle “Subtitle 35.
Commission on African American History and Culture”
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2021 Replacement Volume)

~~BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,~~

~~Article – State Finance and Procurement
Section 5A–301(a) and (m)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2021 Replacement Volume)~~

~~BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,~~

~~Article – State Finance and Procurement
Section 5A–330(b) and (c)(6)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2021 Replacement Volume)~~

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – State Government
Section 9–3502, 9–3506(c), and 9–3508
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2021 Replacement Volume)
(As enacted by Section 1 of this Act)

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

Article – State Government
Section 9.5–101(b)

Annotated Code of Maryland
(2021 Replacement Volume)

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That Section(s) 9.5–401 through 9.5–408, respectively, and the subtitle “Subtitle 4. Commission on African American History and Culture” of Article – State Government of the Annotated Code of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 9–3501 through 9–3508, respectively, and the subtitle “Subtitle 35. Commission on African American History and Culture”.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

~~Article – State Finance and Procurement~~

~~5A–301.~~

- ~~(a) In this subtitle the following words have the meanings indicated.~~
- ~~(m) “Trust” means the Maryland Historical Trust.~~

~~5A–330.~~

~~(b) (1) There is an African American Heritage Preservation Program in the Trust.~~

~~(2) The purpose of the Program is to identify and preserve buildings, communities, and sites of historical and cultural importance to the African American experience in the State.~~

~~(3) The Trust shall develop and administer the Program in partnership with the Commission.~~

~~(4) THE TRUST SHALL PROVIDE OPERATIONAL AND PROGRAM SUPPORT FOR ALL CAPITAL PROJECTS THAT RECEIVED FUNDING FROM THE PROGRAM.~~

~~(e) (6) For each fiscal year, the Governor shall include in the annual operating or capital budget an appropriation of [\$1,000,000] \$5,000,000 to the AAHP Grant Fund.~~

Article – State Government

9–3502.

(A) There is a Commission on African American History and Culture [in the Governor’s Office of Community Initiatives].

(B) THE COMMISSION IS AN INDEPENDENT UNIT IN THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH OF STATE GOVERNMENT.

9-3506.

(c) Subject to the rules and policies adopted by the Commission [and the administrative supervision of the Governor in accordance with Title 8, Subtitle 3 of this article], the director shall:

- (1) administer the activities of the Commission; and
- (2) supervise the appointment and removal of Commission personnel.

9-3508.

(a) (1) The Commission may seek money from the federal government, foundations, and private sources in addition to State financing.

(2) The Commission may accept gifts, grants, donations, bequests, or endowments for any of its purposes.

(b) Money received under subsection (a) of this section, income from the operation of the Banneker-Douglass Museum, and money from educational materials and activities of the Commission are not subject to § 7-302 of the State Finance and Procurement Article.

(c) ~~(1)~~ **FOR EACH FISCAL YEAR, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF \$1,600,000 FOR THE COMMISSION.**

~~(2) FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024, THE GOVERNOR SHALL INCLUDE IN THE ANNUAL BUDGET BILL AN APPROPRIATION OF \$3,000,000 FOR CAPITAL REPAIRS AT THE BANNEKER-DOUGLASS MUSEUM INCLUDING REPAIRS TO THE HEATING AND COOLING SYSTEMS, ELEVATOR REPAIRS, TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES, RESTORATION OF THE ORIGINAL FLOORING, AND THE UPDATE OF PERMANENT EXHIBITS TO INCLUDE ADDITIONAL MARYLAND BLACK HISTORY MILESTONES.~~

(D) Money maintained under this section is subject to audit by the State, including the Legislative Auditor.

9.5-101.

(b) The Governor’s Office of Community Initiatives shall include the following units:

- (1) the Governor’s Office on Service and Volunteerism, under Subtitle 2 of this title;
- (2) the Commission on Indian Affairs, under Subtitle 3 of this title;
- (3) [the Commission on African American History and Culture, under Subtitle 4 of this title;
- (4)] the Commission on LGBTQ Affairs, under Subtitle 5 of this title; and
- [(5)] (4) any other unit as authorized by law or executive order.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2022.

Approved by the Governor, May 16, 2022.