

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 953

(Senator McCray)

Budget and Taxation

Appropriations

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

This bill makes the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture (MCAAHC) an independent unit in the Executive Branch of State government, rather than a part of the Governor’s Office of Community Initiatives (GOCI). The bill requires that, for each fiscal year, the Governor include an appropriation of \$1.6 million for the commission in the annual budget bill. The required funding is subject to audit by the State, including the Legislative Auditor. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2022.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: General fund expenditures increase by approximately \$900,000 annually, beginning in FY 2024. Revenues are not affected. **This bill establishes a mandated appropriation beginning in FY 2024.**

(in dollars)	FY 2023	FY 2024	FY 2025	FY 2026	FY 2027
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	0	900,000	900,000	900,000	900,000
Net Effect	\$0	(\$900,000)	(\$900,000)	(\$900,000)	(\$900,000)

Note:() = decrease; GF = general funds; FF = federal funds; SF = special funds; - = indeterminate increase; (-) = indeterminate decrease

Local Effect: Local government finances and operations are not directly affected.

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Current Law: MCAAHC is part of GOCI and consists of 21 members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate, as specified. With the approval of the Governor, the commission must appoint a director who (1) administers the commission's activities and (2) supervises the appointment and removal of commission personnel. The director is a special appointment in the State Personnel Management System.

Among its other powers and duties, the commission must operate the Banneker-Douglass Museum in Annapolis to house and display photographs, objects, oral history tapes, artifacts, and other materials of African American historic and cultural significance.

The commission may seek money from the federal government, foundations, and private sources in addition to State financing. The commission may accept gifts, grants, donations, bequests, or endowments for any of its purposes. Any such money is subject to audit by the State, including the Legislative Auditor.

State Fiscal Effect: General fund expenditures increase by approximately \$900,000 annually, beginning in fiscal 2024, the first fiscal year to which the required annual funding of \$1.6 million for the commission applies (due to constitutional provisions applicable to the timing of funding mandates in relation to the budget preparation process). This estimate reflects the approximate increase in funding for the commission and its operation of the Banneker-Douglass Museum, when accounting for the current funding provided for the operations of the museum under GOCI. The estimate assumes that, in the absence of the bill, approximately \$700,000 continues to be appropriated for museum operations (similar to the amount budgeted for the museum in fiscal 2022) in future years. It is assumed, for the purposes of this fiscal and policy note, that the increase in funding for the commission and its operation of the museum is supported by general funds. The increase in annual funding for the commission is assumed to, among other things, cover costs of new positions associated with Banneker-Douglass Museum operations and/or other efforts.

The Office of Legislative Audits expects that any additional costs associated with auditing the commission as a separate entity and not as part of GOCI will be minimal.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: HB 1048 (Delegate Henson) - Appropriations.

Information Source(s): Governor's Office; Department of Budget and Management; Department of General Services; Maryland Department of Planning; Department of Legislative Services - Office of Legislative Audits; Department of Legislative Services

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