

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 160 (Delegate Schindler, *et al.*)
Government, Labor, and Elections

State and Local Government - Real Property - Confederate Naming Prohibited

This bill prohibits a State entity or a political subdivision of the State from assigning a “Confederate name” to real property (including streets, buildings, parks, and subdivisions) owned by the State or political subdivision. The bill must be construed to apply prospectively and may not be applied or interpreted to have any effect or application to any real property that has a Confederate name before the effective date of the bill.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill is not anticipated to materially affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: The bill is not anticipated to materially affect local government operations or finances.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Bill Summary: “Confederate name” means a name that commemorates the Confederate States of America (CSA) or any person who served voluntarily with CSA. “Political subdivision” means (1) a county; (2) a municipal corporation; (3) an unincorporated town; (4) a school district; or (5) a special district. “State entity” includes all units and agencies with the Executive, Legislative, and Judicial branches of State government.

Current Law: There is no relevant State law regarding the prohibition or renaming of real property referencing CSA.

The Commission on the Naming of Items of the Department of Defense that Commemorate the Confederate States of America or Any Person Who Served Voluntarily with the Confederate States of America (Naming Commission) was established following the enactment of the federal fiscal 2021 National Defense Authorization Act. Among other things, the Naming Commission was tasked with creating a list to identify specified names and information within the U.S. Department of Defense that commemorate CSA or any person who served voluntarily with CSA, including names, symbols, displays, monuments, or paraphernalia that commemorate CSA. The Naming Commission published three reports and they can be read [here](#).

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See HB 566 of 2024.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Baltimore, Carroll, Harford, Queen Anne's, and St. Mary's counties; Cities of Annapolis and Takoma Park; Maryland Municipal League; Judiciary (Administrative Office of the Courts); University System of Maryland; Department of General Services; Department of Natural Resources; Maryland Department of Transportation; Maryland State Archives; Baltimore City Public Schools; Montgomery County Public Schools; Prince George's County Public Schools; Department of Legislative Services

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