

Department of Legislative Services
 Maryland General Assembly
 2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 47 (Delegate Schindler, *et al.*)
 Government, Labor, and Elections

Commission on State and Local Government Real Property Bearing Confederate Names - Establishment

This bill establishes the Commission on State and Local Government Real Property Bearing Confederate Names as an independent unit in the Executive Branch of State government. The commission must (1) hire an archivist; (2) develop and implement a framework to identify real property bearing a Confederate name that is owned by the State or a political subdivision; and (3) make recommendations regarding the real property that should be renamed. By October 1, 2033, the commission must report its findings and recommendations to specified entities. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2027, and terminates June 30, 2034.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: No effect in FY 2027. General fund expenditures increase by \$89,100 in FY 2028 for staffing; future years reflect ongoing costs and inflation. Revenues are not affected. **This bill establishes a mandated appropriation beginning in FY 2027.**

(in dollars)	FY 2027	FY 2028	FY 2029	FY 2030	FY 2031
Revenues	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0	\$0
GF Expenditure	0	89,100	85,900	89,900	93,800
Net Effect	\$0	(\$89,100)	(\$85,900)	(\$89,900)	(\$93,800)

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

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

Small Business Effect: Minimal.

Analysis

Bill Summary: “Confederate name” means any name that commemorates or references any aspect of the states in rebellion operating as the Confederate States of America (CSA) from 1861 through 1865 or any person or entity that served voluntarily with or on behalf of CSA in any military or civilian capacity. “Political subdivision” means (1) a county; (2) a municipal corporation; (3) an unincorporated town; (4) a school district; (5) a special district; or (6) the Maryland-National Capital Park and Planning Commission.

The commission consists of 24 members appointed by the Governor with the advice and consent of the Senate. The Governor must appoint one representative of each county. The Governor may remove a member for incompetence or misconduct. The commission must elect a chair and vice chair annually from among its members. A member of the commission may not receive compensation as a member of the commission but is entitled to reimbursement for expenses as provided in the State budget.

The commission must meet at least quarterly, and at the discretion of the chair or the Governor.

The archivist hired by the commission must be an employee of the Maryland State Archives (MSA).

Nothing in the bill may be construed to authorize the commission to rename real property owned by the State or a political subdivision.

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, requests, or endowments for any of its purposes. Money received and income and fees derived from educational materials and activities of the commission are not subject to reversion to the general fund. Money maintained is subject to audit by the State, including by the Legislative Auditor.

Current Law: There is no relevant State law regarding the prohibition or renaming of real property referencing CSA. However, 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](#).

State Expenditures: No effect in fiscal 2027 as the bill and the mandated appropriation that MSA hire an archivist to staff the commission both take effect beginning in fiscal 2028. Moreover, although the commission is temporary, its duration extends beyond four years, so this analysis assumes that a regular, rather than contractual, position is needed. Thus, general fund expenditures increase by \$89,123 in fiscal 2028, which reflects the bill's delayed July 1, 2027 effective date. This estimate reflects the cost of hiring one archivist to staff the commission and produce the necessary report. It includes a salary, fringe benefits, one-time start-up costs, and ongoing operating expenses.

Position	1.0
Salaries and Fringe Benefits	\$79,260
Operating Expenses	<u>9,863</u>
Total FY 2028 State Expenditures	\$89,123

Future year expenditures reflect annual salary increases and employee turnover as well as annual increases in ongoing operating expenses.

This analysis does not include an estimate of any federal funds, foundation funding, private fund, or other donated funding and materials collected by the commission.

The Office of Legislative Audits can audit the commission with existing resources.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See HB 752 of 2025 and HB 566 of 2024.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Association of Counties; Maryland Municipal League; Governor's Office; Department of Budget and Management; Maryland State Archives; Department of Legislative Services - Office of Legislative Audits

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 5, 2026
jg/mcr

Analysis by: Thomas S. Elder

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510