

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2003 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 106 (Delegate Harrison, *et al.*)

Health and Government Operations

Finance

Maryland African American Museum Corporation - Board of Directors - New Members

This emergency bill expands the membership of the Maryland African American Museum Corporation's board of directors from 32 to 37 and provides that the 5 new members must meet the same criteria required for 23 current members. The Governor may appoint up to 5 members from outside the State, if necessary, to ensure that the membership meets the criteria for 23 current members. It also provides that a majority of the members of the board constitutes a quorum. The terms of the five additional members who initially serve on the board are staggered and expire as follows: two in 2004, two in 2005, and one in 2006.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Any increase in expenditures resulting from five new members could be handled with existing resources.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The corporation's board of directors consists of 32 members; all but one are appointed by the Governor to four-year staggered terms. The Mayor of Baltimore is an ex officio member. The board's membership must include the following: (1) a representative of Morgan State University; (2) the chairman of the Commission on African American History and Culture (or designee) and 2 other commission members; (3) 4 representatives of African American historical or cultural institutions; and (4) 23

members who have expertise in African American history, culture, or related areas, have fundraising expertise, or represent the State's diversity. A quorum requires 17 members of the board; however, action cannot be taken with a vote of fewer than 9 members. The board elects its own chairman, vice chairman, and treasurer. At least once every five years, the corporation prepares a strategic plan setting goals and priorities for the museum. The members of the board serve without compensation.

Background: The General Assembly created the Maryland African American Museum Corporation in 1998 (Chapter 428) as an independent State agency charged with planning, developing, and managing a museum of African American history and culture in Baltimore City with the support of the city, affected State agencies, and other institutions. The corporation must support all operating costs from general fund grants, if any, and its other income sources.

The museum will be named after Reginald F. Lewis (1942-1993), who was an entrepreneur and philanthropist and served as chair and chief executive officer of TLC Beatrice International, the largest company owned by an African American in the country. The museum, which will be the largest of its kind on the East Coast, is expected to open in 2004 at a location near the Inner Harbor.

The State has provided \$31 million for the design and construction of the museum, and is expected to provide \$1.7 million for equipment. Under the current memorandum of understanding, the State will pay approximately 75% of the corporation's operating budget for the first three years and 50% thereafter. The corporation has raised approximately half of the required \$3 million match.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 130 (Senator McFadden – Finance) is identified as a cross file although it is different. However, SB 130 is an emergency bill and would become effective on the date of passage by three-fifths of the General Assembly.

Information Source(s): Department of Housing and Community Development, *Maryland Manual*, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 29, 2003
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Analysis by: Ann Marie Maloney

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