

Department of Planning and Budget 2020 Fiscal Impact Statement

1. Bill Number: HB1406

House of Origin Introduced Substitute Engrossed
Second House In Committee Substitute Enrolled

2. Patron: Ward

3. Committee: Passed Both Houses

4. Title: Commission for Historical Statues in the United States Capitol; removal of Robert E. Lee statue.

5. Summary: This bill creates the Commission for Historical Statues in the United States Capitol to determine who in addition to George Washington should represent Virginia in the National Statuary Hall Collection at the United States Capitol and to recommend to the General Assembly, if the Commission so chooses to replace the statue of Robert E. Lee, a statue of a prominent Virginia citizen of historic renown or renowned for distinguished civil or military service to be commemorated in the National Statuary Hall Collection.

The Commission shall consist of eight members as follows: one member of the House of Delegates to be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates; one member of the Senate to be appointed by the Senate Committee on Rules; two nonlegislative citizen members who are Virginia or American historians to be appointed by the Governor; three nonlegislative citizen members appointed upon the vote of the Commission members appointed by the Speaker of the House of Delegates, the Senate Committee on Rules, and the Governor; and the Director of the Department of Historic Resources, who shall serve ex officio with nonvoting privileges.

If the Commission determines that the Robert E. Lee statue should be replaced, the Commission will be required to (i) select a sculptor for the new statue, with preference given to a sculptor from Virginia; (ii) estimate the costs associated with the replacement of the Robert E. Lee statue, including costs related to construction and placement of the new statue, for the removal and transfer of the Robert E. Lee statue, and for any unveiling ceremony of the new statue; and (iii) recommend to the General Assembly a suitable state, local, or private nonprofit history museum in the Commonwealth for placement of the Robert E. Lee statue.

The bill requires the Commission to hold at least one public hearing prior to making any recommendation to the General Assembly on a new statue and requires the costs of the Commission's work to be borne by the Commission from such private funds as are collected by the Commission and general funds as are appropriated by the General Assembly.

6. Budget Amendment Necessary: See item eight.

7. Fiscal Impact Estimates: Final, see item eight.

8. Fiscal Implications: The fiscal impact of this bill is indeterminate, as actual expenditures would depend on the location and the number of meetings held each year. For the purposes of this impact statement, the anticipated expenditures associated with the compensation of members and staff support assume four meetings per year, which is the average number of meetings for a commission of this nature. Using this assumption, the Senate of Virginia and the House of Delegates each anticipate that their respective portions of member compensation, meeting, and staffing expenditures each year will be \$1,200. Reimbursement of travel expenses would be paid by the Department of Historic Resources (DHR).

DHR anticipates that expenditures associated with providing staff support to the Commission will be an estimated \$2,572 annually. In addition, DHR's expenditures to support the five nonlegislative members of the Commission will be an estimated \$3,000 each year and the expenditures to reimburse the two legislative members for their travel expenses will be an estimated \$1,320 each year.

The proposed bill establishes that these costs should be borne by the Commission from such private funds raised, bequeathed, or granted to the Commission and by any general fund appropriations provided by the General Assembly for the Commission's purposes.

9. Specific Agency or Political Subdivisions Affected: The House of Delegates; The Senate of Virginia; Department of Historic Resources.

10. Technical Amendment Necessary: No.

11. Other Comments: This bill is the companion to SB612.