

# HOUSE BILL 597

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CF SB 417

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By: **Delegates Patterson, Ali, Angel, D. Barnes, Barron, Branch, Brooks, Carey, Chang, Conaway, Davis, Fennell, Gaines, Gibson, Glenn, Haynes, C. Howard, Jackson, R. Lewis, Luedtke, McComas, McCray, Morales, Mosby, Platt, Proctor, Sample-Hughes, Sydnor, Turner, and M. Washington**  
Introduced and read first time: January 29, 2018  
Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Commission on African American Patriots in the American Revolutionary War**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing the Commission on African American Patriots in the  
4 American Revolutionary War; providing for the composition, chair, staffing, and  
5 office space of the Commission; providing for the compensation of the chair of the  
6 Commission; providing that a member of the Commission is entitled to receive a  
7 certain stipend under certain circumstances; requiring that the staff provided to the  
8 Commission be adequately funded to perform certain duties; requiring the  
9 Commission, in consultation with certain persons, to conduct research to advance  
10 the documentation of African American patriots in the American Revolutionary War;  
11 requiring the Commission to determine and send to the county boards of education  
12 certain information; requiring the Commission to use certain research in  
13 determining the information to be sent to the county boards of education under a  
14 certain provision of this Act and in developing a certain publication; requiring the  
15 Commission to develop and print a certain publication; requiring the Governor to  
16 include certain funds in the annual budget bill for a certain fiscal year for certain  
17 purposes; requiring the Commission to assemble a certain inventory of sites;  
18 requiring the Commission to develop a plan to commemorate Maryland African  
19 American patriots in the American Revolutionary War through the placement of  
20 statues, landmark plaques, or historical markers; requiring the Commission to work  
21 with the Department of General Services to implement a certain plan; requiring that  
22 the collection in each public school library or media center include a certain  
23 publication on Maryland African American patriots in the American Revolutionary  
24 War; authorizing each county board of education to provide instruction on Maryland  
25 African American patriots in the American Revolutionary War as part of the social  
26 studies curriculum in primary and secondary public schools in the county; requiring  
27 a county board, under certain circumstances, to consider information sent by the  
28 Commission in developing its instruction on Maryland African American patriots in

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 the American Revolutionary War; providing for the termination of this Act; and  
2 generally relating to the Commission on African American Patriots in the American  
3 Revolutionary War.

4 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
5 Article – Education  
6 Section 7–106(b)  
7 Annotated Code of Maryland  
8 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

9 BY adding to  
10 Article – Education  
11 Section 7–441  
12 Annotated Code of Maryland  
13 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

14 BY adding to  
15 Article – State Government  
16 Section 9–3301 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 33. Commission on African  
17 American Patriots in the American Revolutionary War”  
18 Annotated Code of Maryland  
19 (2014 Replacement Volume and 2017 Supplement)

20 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
21 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

22 **Article – Education**

23 7–106.

24 (b) (1) Each county board shall adopt procedures for the selection and  
25 purchase for use in each public school library or media center of a collection of books and  
26 auditory and visual materials concerning African American history.

27 (2) The collection in each library or media center shall [be]:

28 (I) **BE** appropriate for students in each age group and reading level  
29 in the school; AND

30 (II) **INCLUDE THE PUBLICATION ON MARYLAND AFRICAN**  
31 **AMERICAN PATRIOTS IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR DEVELOPED AND**  
32 **PRINTED UNDER § 9–3301(H) OF THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE.**

33 7–441.

34 (A) **EACH COUNTY BOARD MAY PROVIDE INSTRUCTION ON AFRICAN**

1 AMERICAN PATRIOTS IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR AS PART OF THE  
2 SOCIAL STUDIES CURRICULUM IN PRIMARY AND SECONDARY PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN  
3 THE COUNTY.

4 (B) IF A COUNTY BOARD ELECTS TO PROVIDE THE INSTRUCTION  
5 AUTHORIZED UNDER SUBSECTION (A) OF THIS SECTION, THE COUNTY BOARD SHALL  
6 CONSIDER INFORMATION SENT BY THE COMMISSION ON AFRICAN AMERICAN  
7 PATRIOTS IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR IN DEVELOPING THE  
8 INSTRUCTION TO BE PROVIDED.

9 Article – State Government

10 SUBTITLE 33. COMMISSION ON AFRICAN AMERICAN PATRIOTS IN THE AMERICAN  
11 REVOLUTIONARY WAR.

12 9–3301.

13 (A) THERE IS A COMMISSION ON AFRICAN AMERICAN PATRIOTS IN THE  
14 AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR.

15 (B) THE COMMISSION CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

16 (1) TWO MEMBERS OF THE SENATE OF MARYLAND, APPOINTED BY  
17 THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;

18 (2) TWO MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, APPOINTED BY  
19 THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE;

20 (3) THE STATE ARCHIVIST, OR THE ARCHIVIST’S DESIGNEE;

21 (4) THE SECRETARY OF EDUCATION, OR THE SECRETARY’S  
22 DESIGNEE; AND

23 (5) THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS, APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR:

24 (I) TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ASSOCIATION FOR THE  
25 STUDY OF AFRICAN AMERICAN LIFE AND HISTORY;

26 (II) TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MARYLAND CHAPTER OF  
27 THE AFRO–AMERICAN HISTORICAL AND GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY;

28 (III) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BALTIMORE CITY BOARD OF  
29 EDUCATION;

1 (IV) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE BLACKS OF THE  
2 CHESAPEAKE FOUNDATION;

3 (V) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF BOWIE STATE UNIVERSITY;

4 (VI) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE AFRICAN AMERICAN  
5 HERITAGE SOCIETY OF CHARLES COUNTY;

6 (VII) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF FROSTBURG STATE UNIVERSITY;

7 (VIII) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE HERITAGE MUSEUM;

8 (IX) TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE MARYLAND COMMISSION  
9 ON AFRICAN AMERICAN HISTORY AND CULTURE;

10 (X) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF MORGAN STATE UNIVERSITY;

11 (XI) ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
12 FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF COLORED PEOPLE;

13 (XII) TWO REPRESENTATIVES OF THE NATIONAL ASSOCIATION  
14 FOR BLACK VETERANS; AND

15 (XIII) ONE REPRESENTATIVE FROM THE UNIVERSITY SYSTEM OF  
16 MARYLAND.

17 (C) (1) THE CHAIR OF THE COMMISSION SHALL BE THE APPOINTED  
18 MEMBER FROM THE HERITAGE MUSEUM.

19 (2) THE COMMISSION CHAIR SHALL BE ENTITLED TO AN ANNUAL  
20 SALARY OF \$48,000.

21 (D) (1) THE MARYLAND STATE ARCHIVES SHALL PROVIDE OFFICE  
22 SPACE AND STAFF FOR THE COMMISSION.

23 (2) THE STAFF PROVIDED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS  
24 SUBSECTION SHALL BE ADEQUATELY FUNDED TO CARRY OUT THE DUTIES OF THE  
25 COMMISSION.

26 (3) THE DUTIES OF THE STAFF PROVIDED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF  
27 THIS SUBSECTION SHALL INCLUDE:

28 (I) ASSISTING THE COMMISSION IN ALL BUSINESS ACTIVITIES;

1 (II) PERFORMING ADMINISTRATIVE ACTIVITIES FOR THE  
2 COMMISSION; AND

3 (III) ANY OTHER TASKS ASSIGNED BY THE COMMISSION CHAIR.

4 (F) THE COMMISSION SHALL CONDUCT RESEARCH TO ADVANCE THE  
5 DOCUMENTATION OF AFRICAN AMERICAN PATRIOTS IN THE AMERICAN  
6 REVOLUTIONARY WAR IN CONSULTATION WITH:

7 (1) THE MARYLAND STATE ARCHIVES;

8 (2) THE NATIONAL ARCHIVES AND RECORDS ADMINISTRATION;

9 (3) DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAN REVOLUTION;

10 (4) REGIONAL HISTORICAL SOCIETIES; AND

11 (5) UNIVERSITY FACULTIES.

12 (G) (1) THE COMMISSION SHALL DETERMINE AND SEND TO THE COUNTY  
13 BOARDS OF EDUCATION THE INFORMATION THAT MAY BE USED IN PROVIDING THE  
14 INSTRUCTION AUTHORIZED UNDER § 7-441 OF THE EDUCATION ARTICLE  
15 REGARDING AFRICAN AMERICAN PATRIOTS IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY  
16 WAR.

17 (2) THE COMMISSION SHALL USE THE RESEARCH CONDUCTED  
18 UNDER SUBSECTION (F) OF THIS SECTION IN DETERMINING THE INFORMATION TO  
19 BE SENT TO THE COUNTY BOARDS OF EDUCATION UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS  
20 SUBSECTION.

21 (H) (1) THE COMMISSION SHALL DEVELOP AND PRINT A PUBLICATION  
22 ON THE HISTORY AND RECORDS OF THE MARYLAND AFRICAN AMERICAN PATRIOTS  
23 IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR.

24 (2) IN DEVELOPING THE PUBLICATION UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF  
25 THIS SUBSECTION, THE COMMISSION SHALL USE THE RESEARCH CONDUCTED  
26 UNDER SUBSECTION (F) OF THIS SECTION.

27 (I) (1) THE COMMISSION SHALL ASSEMBLE AN INVENTORY OF SITES IN  
28 THE STATE THAT ARE SIGNIFICANT FOR MARYLAND AFRICAN AMERICAN PATRIOTS  
29 IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY WAR.

1           **(2) THE COMMISSION SHALL DEVELOP A PLAN TO COMMEMORATE**  
2 **MARYLAND AFRICAN AMERICAN PATRIOTS IN THE AMERICAN REVOLUTIONARY**  
3 **WAR FOR THE SITES INVENTORIED UNDER PARAGRAPH (1) OF THIS SUBSECTION**  
4 **THROUGH THE PLACEMENT OF:**

5                   **(I) STATUES;**

6                   **(II) LANDMARK PLAQUES; OR**

7                   **(III) HISTORICAL MARKERS.**

8           **(3) THE COMMISSION SHALL WORK WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF**  
9 **GENERAL SERVICES TO IMPLEMENT THE PLAN DEVELOPED UNDER PARAGRAPH (2)**  
10 **OF THIS SUBSECTION.**

11           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, for fiscal year 2020, the  
12 Governor shall include in the annual budget bill:

13                   (1) at least \$100,000 for the Commission on African American Patriots in  
14 the American Revolutionary War to conduct research and print the publication required  
15 under § 9–3301(h) of the State Government Article, as enacted by Section 1 of this Act; and

16                   (2) at least \$100,000 for the Commission on African American Patriots in  
17 the American Revolutionary War to develop and implement the plan to commemorate  
18 Maryland African American patriots in the American Revolutionary War as required under  
19 § 9–3301(i) of the State Government Article, as enacted by Section 1 of this Act.

20           SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
21 October 1, 2018. It shall remain effective for a period of 5 years and, at the end of September  
22 30, 2023, this Act, with no further action required by the General Assembly, shall be  
23 abrogated and of no further force and effect.