

Department of Planning and Budget
2026 General Assembly Session
State Fiscal Impact Statement

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ORIGINAL

Bill Number: HB1236

Patron: Delaney

Bill Title: Historical African American cemeteries and graves; qualified organization; Fairfax burial grounds.

Bill Summary: Expands the definition of a qualified organization that may receive funds for maintenance of a historical African American cemetery to include any authority created pursuant to the Park Authorities Act. The bill also adds the African American Cemetery at Bull Run Park with 101 known graves, the Enslaved Burial Ground at Bull Run Marina with five known graves, and the Enslaved Burial Ground at Ford's Mill with seven known graves in Fairfax County to the list of cemeteries for which qualified organizations may receive funds from the Department of Historic Resources for the care of historical African American cemeteries and graves.

Budget Amendment Necessary: No.

Items Impacted: N/A

Explanation: This bill involves the Department of Historic Resources (DHR); however, no budget action is required. See Fiscal Analysis section below.

Fiscal Summary: It is anticipated that any fiscal impact this bill may have on DHR can be absorbed within existing resources.

Fiscal Analysis: This impact statement is preliminary. This would add at least 113 additional graves to those already being maintained by DHR. The Code of Virginia stipulates a \$5 per grave rate, so this would equate to an additional annual cost of \$565. The Introduced Budget includes an annual general fund appropriation of \$250,000 for the preservation and care of historical African American graves and cemeteries. Any remaining funding is deposited at the end of each fiscal year into the Historical African American Cemeteries and Graves Fund, which has a current cash balance of about \$850,000. DHR expended nearly \$314,000 on African American Cemeteries and Graves in 2024 and more than \$352,000 in 2025. While the agency anticipates outspending their general fund appropriation again this year and potentially needing an appropriation increase in the future, it is anticipated that DHR can absorb any costs associated with the implementation of this bill.

Other: None.