

SUPPORT [SB 158](#)/[HB 141](#)

Virginia Black, Indigenous, and People of Color Historic Preservation Fund established

Patrons: Hashmi/McQuinn

Reasons to Support

SB158/HB141 will:

- Establish a grant fund to support and provide nonprofit organizations, localities, and state and federally-recognized Indian tribes eligible costs to acquire, preserve and interpret historic structures, cultural landscapes and archaeological sites important to the history of Black, Indigenous and People of Color.
- No such fund currently exists. Its establishment would help to ensure the preservation of historic sites and resources from historically marginalized and underrepresented communities, which traditionally have not been priorities for state conservation grant funding.
 - Included in Governor Northam's outgoing budget proposal is \$5 million/year for this proposed fund.
- The effect will be to save historic places related to this important history and provide funds that can support growing the capacity of the groups caring for this history.
- This legislation is the natural follow-on to the General Assembly's action last session to provide \$250,000 in funding to expand VDHR's capacity to survey and document historic resources from underrepresented communities.
- As the primary state agency charged with the protection of historic resources across the Commonwealth, VDHR is the appropriate agency to administer this proposed fund. Separately, for nearly two decades VDHR has successfully administered the Virginia Battlefield Preservation Fund.

Overview

Funding is the greatest obstacle for localities and small local organizations seeking to save and preserve the history and historic places of Black, Indigenous, and People of Color. Establishing the Fund will help ensure that this history is documented and preserved. Perpetual easements will ensure that the Commonwealth remains a partner in the preservation of these sites.



PRESERVATION VIRGINIA



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