

SENATE BILL 351

P1

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CF 11r0721

By: **Senators Pugh, Benson, Conway, Currie, Forehand, Gladden,
Jones–Rodwell, Kelley, Montgomery, and Ramirez**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2011

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Request to Place a Statue of Harriet Tubman in the National Statuary Hall**
3 **Collection**

4 FOR the purpose of requesting that the Joint Committee on the Library of Congress
5 approve the replacement of the statue of the Honorable John Hanson with a
6 statue of Harriet Tubman in the National Statuary Hall Collection in the
7 United States Capitol; providing certain information to the Joint Committee on
8 the Library of Congress in accordance with the Procedure for Replacement of
9 Statues in the National Statuary Hall Collection; specifying that the Harriet
10 Tubman Statue Commission will represent the State in selecting a sculptor;
11 specifying that a coalition of interested individuals, nonprofit organizations, and
12 other groups will supply the funds to be used for certain purposes related to the
13 statue; requiring the Governor to appoint members of the Harriet Tubman
14 Statue Commission; requiring the Governor to submit certain documents to the
15 Architect of the Capitol; and generally relating to a request to place a statue of
16 Harriet Tubman in the National Statuary Hall Collection.

17 Preamble

18 WHEREAS, By act of Congress, each state is invited to provide statues, not
19 exceeding two in number, of deceased persons who have been citizens of the state and
20 illustrious for their historic renown or for distinguished civic or military services, as
21 the state shall determine to be worthy of national commemoration in a national
22 statuary hall; and

23 WHEREAS, The State of Maryland in years past did provide for the placing of
24 two statues of distinguished citizens of Maryland in the National Statuary Hall
25 Collection in the United States Capitol; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WHEREAS, One of the statues is of the Honorable John Hanson, born in 1715,
2 who was a Maryland merchant and delegate to the Continental Congress. From 1781
3 to 1782, he served as President of the United States in Congress assembled under the
4 Articles of Confederation. This was largely a ceremonial role, and after a 1-year term,
5 Hanson retired to the country, where he died in 1783; and

6 WHEREAS, John Hanson can best be honored by locating his statue in a place
7 of honor in Annapolis, the capital of the State of Maryland, where it may be enjoyed by
8 our citizens and visitors; and

9 WHEREAS, The citizens of the State of Maryland wish to replace the statue of
10 John Hanson with a statue of Harriet Tubman for placement in the National Statuary
11 Hall Collection in recognition of her many contributions to the State and to the nation,
12 including her work on the Underground Railroad and as a Union spy during the Civil
13 War; now, therefore,

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
15 MARYLAND, That:

16 (a) The State of Maryland requests that the Joint Committee on the Library
17 of Congress approve the replacement of Maryland's statue of the Honorable John
18 Hanson in the National Statuary Hall Collection with a statue of Harriet Tubman.

19 (b) (1) In accordance with the Procedure for Replacement of Statues in
20 the National Statuary Hall Collection, the State of Maryland submits the following
21 information in paragraphs (2), (3), (4), and (5) of this subsection for consideration by
22 the Joint Committee on the Library of Congress.

23 (2) Harriet Tubman, a citizen of Maryland, was born a slave under the
24 given name Araminta Ross in Dorchester County, Maryland, in about 1820. Beaten
25 severely as a child, she also suffered a traumatic head injury at the hand of a slave
26 owner early in her life which caused a lifetime of headaches, seizures, and visions. In
27 1849, she fled north to freedom and then immediately returned to Maryland, risking
28 her life to free her family. She joined the Underground Railroad, which was a secret
29 network for free African Americans and white sympathizers who helped runaways
30 escape the South. She became a conductor on the Underground Railroad, risking her
31 life time and time again to return to Maryland and lead slaves to freedom. Known as
32 "the Moses of her people," she was so successful that furious slaveholders put a huge
33 price on her head. When the Civil War began, she became a Union spy, organizing an
34 espionage network of slaves and freedmen who operated behind Confederate lines. On
35 several occasions, she led military raiding parties and also tended to the Union
36 wounded as an army nurse. After the Civil War, she devoted herself to women's
37 suffrage, the care of orphans and invalids, and the establishment of freedmen's schools
38 in the South.

39 (3) The contributions of Harriet Tubman to the State of Maryland and
40 to the country merits inclusion of a statue of her in the National Statuary Hall
41 Collection.

1 (4) The Harriet Tubman Statue Commission will represent the State
2 in selecting the sculptor for the Harriet Tubman statue.

3 (5) The Harriet Tubman Statue Commission will consist of the
4 following seven members:

5 (i) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the
6 President of the Senate;

7 (ii) one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the
8 Speaker of the House; and

9 (iii) five members, appointed by the Governor, who are
10 representatives from the nonprofit organizations and other groups that contributed to
11 the passage of this Act and will supply the funds under paragraph (6) of this
12 subsection; and

13 (6) A coalition of interested individuals, nonprofit organizations, and
14 other groups will supply the funds to be used to cover the costs of replacing the John
15 Hanson statue with a Harriet Tubman statue, including:

16 (i) paying the sculptor;

17 (ii) carving or casting the Harriet Tubman statue;

18 (iii) creating a pedestal and any desired inscription;

19 (iv) transporting the Harriet Tubman statue and pedestal to the
20 United States Capitol;

21 (v) removing and transporting the John Hanson statue from
22 Washington to Annapolis;

23 (vi) temporarily erecting the new Harriet Tubman statue in the
24 Rotunda of the Capitol for the unveiling ceremony;

25 (vii) expenses related to the unveiling ceremony; and

26 (viii) and any other expenses that may be incurred by the Harriet
27 Tubman Statue Commission.

28 (c) The Governor shall:

29 (1) appoint the members of the Harriet Tubman Statue Commission;

30 and

1 (2) as required by the Procedure for Replacement of Statues in the
2 National Statuary Hall Collection, submit to the Architect of the Capitol a copy of this
3 Act, along with a letter from the Governor requesting approval from the Joint
4 Committee on the Library of Congress to replace Maryland's statue of the Honorable
5 John Hanson with a statue of Harriet Tubman.

6 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
7 October 1, 2011.