

# HOUSE BILL 1393

L2

4lr2935

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By: **St. Mary's County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: February 12, 2014

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

Re-referred to: Environmental Matters, February 26, 2014

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 10, 2014

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **St. Mary's County – John Hanson Briscoe Circuit Courthouse for St. Mary's**  
3 **County**

4 FOR the purpose of renaming the St. Mary's County Circuit Courthouse, located in  
5 Leonardtown, St. Mary's County, the John Hanson Briscoe Circuit Courthouse  
6 for St. Mary's County; and generally relating to the renaming of the St. Mary's  
7 County Circuit Courthouse, located in Leonardtown, St. Mary's County.

8 BY adding to

9 The Public Local Laws of St. Mary's County  
10 Section 19–3.  
11 Article 19 – Public Local Laws of Maryland  
12 (2007 Edition and February 2013 Supplement, as amended)

13 Preamble

14 WHEREAS, Judge John Hanson Briscoe was elected in 1962 to the Maryland  
15 House of Delegates, where he represented St. Mary's County and served as Chair of  
16 the Natural Resources Committee, the Environmental Matters Committee, and the  
17 Ways and Means Committee before he was elected Speaker of the House of Delegates  
18 in 1973; and

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 WHEREAS, As a legislator, Judge Briscoe was instrumental in the passage of  
2 State civil rights laws, the expansion of Point Lookout State Park, and the creation of  
3 Greenwell State Park and the College of Southern Maryland; and

4 WHEREAS, Judge Briscoe was respected for his powers of persuasion and  
5 mediation and served as Speaker of the House of Delegates from 1973 until his  
6 retirement in 1979; and

7 WHEREAS, Judge Briscoe was appointed in 1985 to the St. Mary's County  
8 Circuit Court, 7th Judicial Circuit, where he served with distinction until his  
9 retirement in 2002; and

10 WHEREAS, Judge Briscoe made historic and environmental preservation  
11 central tenets of his career; and

12 WHEREAS, Judge Briscoe spearheaded erosion mediation efforts to save St.  
13 Clement's Island, the birthplace of Maryland; and

14 WHEREAS, As President of the Historic Sotterley Foundation, Judge Briscoe  
15 dedicated himself to establishing Sotterley Plantation as a National Historic  
16 Landmark and to preserving Sotterley Plantation as a vital public museum and  
17 educational site; and

18 WHEREAS, Throughout his life, Judge Briscoe demonstrated an exceptional  
19 level of selfless service and essential humanity and decency, ensuring that his  
20 compassion and commitment would remain as a lasting legacy to the people of St.  
21 Mary's County and the State of Maryland; and

22 WHEREAS, The General Assembly wishes to express its profound respect for,  
23 and deep gratitude to, Judge John Hanson Briscoe, and to name the St. Mary's County  
24 Circuit Courthouse in his honor, and in honor of his service to St. Mary's County and  
25 the State of Maryland; now, therefore,

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

28 **Article 19 – St. Mary's County**

29 **19-3.**

30 **THE CIRCUIT COURTHOUSE, LOCATED AT 41605 COURTHOUSE DRIVE,**  
31 **LEONARDTOWN, ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND, SHALL BE RENAMED THE**  
32 **JOHN HANSON BRISCOE CIRCUIT COURTHOUSE FOR ST. MARY'S COUNTY.**

33 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
34 October 1, 2014.