

HOUSE BILL 354

L1, P1

5lr1257

By: **Calvert County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2015

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 11, 2015

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Calvert County – Task Force to Study the Commemoration of Harriet Elizabeth**
3 **Brown**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study the Commemoration of Harriet
5 Elizabeth Brown; providing for the composition ~~and chair, chair, and staff~~ of the Task
6 Force; ~~prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation,~~
7 ~~but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses;~~ requiring the Task Force to
8 study, hold public hearings, and make recommendations regarding certain matters;
9 requiring the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor
10 and to the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the
11 termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force to Study the
12 Commemoration of Harriet Elizabeth Brown.

13 Preamble

14 WHEREAS, Harriet Elizabeth Brown worked as a teacher and principal at the Mt.
15 Hope Elementary School in Calvert County from 1931 to 1973; and

16 WHEREAS, During the period of racially segregated education, Ms. Brown became
17 aware that African American teachers were paid significantly less than their white
18 counterparts with the same level of education and experience; and

19 WHEREAS, In 1937, Ms. Brown enlisted the aid of a young attorney named
20 Thurgood Marshall, then special counsel for the NAACP, to challenge the inequity of
21 separate pay scales for public school teachers based on race; and

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, The landmark case was settled in Ms. Brown's favor by the Calvert
2 County Board of Education on December 27, 1937, and was a turning point for salary
3 equalization in the State of Maryland; and

4 WHEREAS, Harriet Elizabeth Brown, a civil rights pioneer and long-time resident
5 of the State of Maryland, died on January 1, 2009, at the age of 101; now, therefore,

6 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
7 That:

8 (a) There is a Task Force to Study the Commemoration of Harriet Elizabeth
9 Brown.

10 (b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

11 (1) the Chair of the Calvert County Commission for Women;

12 (2) one member of the County Commissioners of Calvert County, appointed
13 by the County Commissioners;

14 (3) the Superintendent of the Calvert County Public School System, or the
15 Superintendent's designee;

16 (4) one representative of the Calvert County NAACP, appointed by the
17 Calvert County Delegation to the General Assembly;

18 (5) one representative of the Calvert County Historical Society, appointed
19 by the Calvert County Delegation to the General Assembly;

20 (6) one member of the House of Delegates who represents Calvert County,
21 appointed by the Calvert County House Delegation; ~~and~~

22 (7) one member of the Senate of Maryland who represents Calvert County,
23 appointed by the Calvert County Senators; and

24 (8) the Secretary of General Services, or the Secretary's designee.

25 (c) The Chair of the Calvert County Commission for Women shall be the chair of
26 the Task Force.

27 (d) ~~A member of the Task Force;~~

28 (1) ~~may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but~~

1 ~~(2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State~~
2 ~~Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget~~ The staff of the Calvert County
3 Delegation to the General Assembly shall provide staff to the Task Force.

4 (e) The Task Force shall:

5 (1) study and make recommendations on the commemoration of Harriet
6 Elizabeth Brown, such as renaming a State building or designating a State roadway in
7 honor of Harriet Elizabeth Brown;

8 (2) hold public hearings to gather public input and recommendations; and

9 (3) consider the cost-effectiveness of its findings before making its
10 recommendations.

11 (f) On or before December 31, 2015, the Task Force shall report its findings and
12 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
13 Government Article, the General Assembly.

14 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
15 1, 2015. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30, 2016,
16 with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and
17 of no further force and effect.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.