

# SENATE BILL 879

F1

(9lr3233)

## ENROLLED BILL

— *Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs/Ways and Means* —

Introduced by **Senators Griffith, Miller, Augustine, Bailey, Beidle, Benson, Carozza, Carter, Cassilly, Eckardt, Edwards, Elfreth, Ellis, Feldman, Ferguson, Gallion, Guzzone, Hayes, Hershey, Hester, Hough, Jennings, Kagan, Kelley, King, Klausmeier, Kramer, Lam, Lee, McCray, Nathan–Pulliam, Patterson, Peters, Pinsky, Ready, Reilly, Rosapepe, Salling, Serafini, Simonaire, Smith, Waldstreicher, Washington, West, Young, Zirkin, and Zucker**

Read and Examined by Proofreaders:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Proofreader.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Proofreader.

Sealed with the Great Seal and presented to the Governor, for his approval this

\_\_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_ at \_\_\_\_\_ o'clock, \_\_\_\_\_ M.

\_\_\_\_\_  
President.

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

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Primary and Secondary Education – Black History Month – Harriet Tubman**  
3 **and Frederick Douglass**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring certain public schools to devote a certain part of ~~the~~ *at least*  
5 *one* day to exercises that relate to Black History Month with an emphasis on certain  
6 individuals and the contributions they made in the fight against slavery; and  
7 generally relating to Black History Month and Harriet Tubman and Frederick  
8 Douglass.

9 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

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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.

*Italics indicate opposite chamber/conference committee amendments.*



1 Article – Education  
2 Section 7–103(c)(3)  
3 Annotated Code of Maryland  
4 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

5 Preamble

6 WHEREAS, Both Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass were abolitionists and  
7 political activists in the late 1800’s whose contributions were instrumental in the fight  
8 against slavery; and

9 WHEREAS, Both Tubman and Douglass have roots in Maryland, Tubman having  
10 been born a slave in Dorchester County, Maryland and Douglass having escaped from  
11 slavery in Talbot County, Maryland; and

12 WHEREAS, Tubman’s efforts in the operation of the Underground Railroad resulted  
13 in 13 missions that rescued and freed approximately 70 enslaved individuals including  
14 family, friends, and others; and

15 WHEREAS, Douglass was a well-known orator, writer, and statesman who  
16 published multiple autobiographies that were influential in promoting the cause of  
17 abolition; and

18 WHEREAS, The State of Maryland celebrates Black History Month in the month of  
19 February every year; now, therefore,

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

22 **Article – Education**

23 7–103.

24 (c) (3) The public schools shall devote a part of ~~the~~ **AT LEAST ONE** day to  
25 appropriate exercises for **EACH OF** the following [days]:

26 (i) Washington’s Birthday;

27 (ii) Lincoln’s Birthday;

28 (iii) Veterans’ Day;

29 (iv) Columbus Day;

30 (v) Arbor Day; [and]

1                   **(VI) BLACK HISTORY MONTH, WITH AN EMPHASIS ON HARRIET**  
2 **TUBMAN AND FREDERICK DOUGLASS AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS THEY MADE IN THE**  
3 **FIGHT AGAINST SLAVERY; AND**

4                   **[(vi)] (VII)** Any other day of national significance.

5           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
6 October 1, 2019.

Approved:

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Governor.

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President of the Senate.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.