

SENATE BILL 879

F1

9lr3233

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

Introduced and read first time: February 8, 2019

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Committee Report: Favorable

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 12, 2019

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 day to
5 exercises that relate to Black History Month with an emphasis on certain individuals
6 and the contributions they made in the fight against slavery; and generally relating
7 to Black History Month and Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
9 Article – Education
10 Section 7–103(c)(3)
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2018 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

13 Preamble

14 WHEREAS, Both Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass were abolitionists and
15 political activists in the late 1800’s whose contributions were instrumental in the fight
16 against slavery; 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, Both Tubman and Douglass have roots in Maryland, Tubman having
2 been born a slave in Dorchester County, Maryland and Douglass having escaped from
3 slavery in Talbot County, Maryland; and

4 WHEREAS, Tubman's efforts in the operation of the Underground Railroad resulted
5 in 13 missions that rescued and freed approximately 70 enslaved individuals including
6 family, friends, and others; and

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

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

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

14 **Article – Education**

15 7–103.

16 (c) (3) The public schools shall devote a part of the day to appropriate exercises
17 for the following [days]:

18 (i) Washington's Birthday;

19 (ii) Lincoln's Birthday;

20 (iii) Veterans' Day;

21 (iv) Columbus Day;

22 (v) Arbor Day; [and]

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

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

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