

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2011 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 455 (Delegate Lee, *et al.*)
Health and Government Operations

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

This bill requests that the Joint Committee on the Library of Congress approve the replacement of the statue of John Hanson, which was provided by the State, with a statue of Harriet Tubman in the National Statuary Hall Collection in the United States Capital. The statue of John Hanson must be transported to and displayed in Annapolis. The Governor must (1) submit necessary documents to the Architect of the Capital; and (2) appoint members of the Harriet Tubman Statue Commission, which will represent the State in selecting a sculptor. Necessary funds will be supplied by nonprofit organizations and other interested individuals.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill is not expected to materially affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: The United States Congress created the National Statuary Hall Collection in 1864 and authorized the collection to allow each state to provide two statues of notable citizens for display in the United States Capital. Any state may request the Joint Committee on the Library of Congress (which oversees the collection) to approve the replacement of a statue the state has provided for display if (1) the request has been approved by a resolution adopted by the state legislature; (2) the request has

been approved by the governor of the state; and (3) either the statue to be replaced has been on display for 10 years or the joint committee waives this requirement.

Both statues provided by Maryland to the National Statutory Hall Collection were sculpted by Richard E. Brooks and given to the collection in 1903. One of these statues is of Charles Carroll, who was a signer of the Declaration of Independence, a drafter of the Maryland Constitution, and Maryland's Senator. The other statue, which this bill proposes to replace, is of John Hanson.

John Hanson was one of the strongest colonial advocates of independence. He served as a delegate to the Continental Congress and, later, as "President of the United States in Congress Assembled" under the Articles of Confederation.

Harriet Tubman was born a slave in Dorchester County, Maryland. She later became a Union spy and, as one of the most well-known conductors on the Underground Railroad, helped lead many slaves to freedom.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 351 (Senator Pugh, *et al.*) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

Information Source(s): Architect of the Capitol, Office of the Governor, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 14, 2011
mc/hlb

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