

HOUSE BILL 1429

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CF SB 1069

By: **Delegates Lee, Nathan–Pulliam, Alston, Arora, Beidle, Bobo, Braveboy, Burns, Cane, Carr, Conaway, Cullison, Eckardt, Frick, Frush, Gaines, George, Glenn, Gutierrez, Harrison, Healey, Howard, Jones, A. Kelly, Love, Luedtke, McComas, A. Miller, Pena–Melnik, B. Robinson, Stukes, Tarrant, Valderrama, and Washington**

Introduced and read first time: March 1, 2012

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Government – Statue of Harriet Tubman**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Governor to authorize the gift of a statue of Harriet
4 Tubman to the United States government and to request the United States
5 Congress to place the statue in a certain building; requiring the Governor to
6 establish the Harriet Tubman Statue Commission and appoint certain
7 members; requiring the Commission, under the supervision and direction of the
8 State Treasurer, to raise certain funds and represent the State in selecting a
9 certain sculptor; and generally relating to the statue of Harriet Tubman.

10 Preamble

11 WHEREAS, Harriet Tubman was born a slave under the given name Araminta
12 Ross in Maryland in about 1820; and

13 WHEREAS, Beaten severely as a child, she also suffered a traumatic head
14 injury at the hand of a slave owner early in her life, which caused a lifetime of
15 headaches, seizures, and vision difficulties; and

16 WHEREAS, In 1849, she fled north to freedom and then immediately returned
17 to Maryland, risking her life to free her family; and

18 WHEREAS, She joined the Underground Railroad, which was a secret network
19 for free African Americans and white sympathizers who helped runaways escape the
20 South; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WHEREAS, She became a conductor on the Underground Railroad, risking her
2 life time and time again to return to Maryland and lead slaves to freedom; and

3 WHEREAS, Known as “the Moses of her people”, she was so successful that
4 furious slaveholders put a huge price on her head; and

5 WHEREAS, When the Civil War began, she became a Union spy, organizing an
6 espionage network of slaves and freedmen who operated behind Confederate lines; and

7 WHEREAS, On several occasions, she led military raiding parties and also
8 tended to the Union wounded as an army nurse; and

9 WHEREAS, After the Civil War, she devoted herself to women’s suffrage, the
10 care of orphans and invalids, and the establishment of freedmen’s schools in the
11 South; and

12 WHEREAS, The 100th anniversary of her death occurs on March 10, 2013; now,
13 therefore,

14 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
15 MARYLAND, That the Governor shall:

16 (a) authorize the gift of a statue of Harriet Tubman from the citizens of
17 Maryland to the United States government;

18 (b) request the United States Congress to place the statue in the U.S. Capitol
19 Building; and

20 (c) establish the Harriet Tubman Statue Commission that:

21 (1) is composed of ten members, appointed by the Governor, who are
22 representatives of the nonprofit organizations and other groups that contributed to the
23 passage of this Act and will contribute to the funds to be used for paying the costs
24 associated with the statue;

25 (2) under the supervision and direction of the State Treasurer, is
26 responsible for raising private funds to be used for paying the costs associated with the
27 statue, including:

28 (i) paying the sculptor;

29 (ii) carving or casting the Harriet Tubman statue;

30 (iii) creating a pedestal and any desired inscription;

31 (iv) transporting the Harriet Tubman statue and pedestal to the
32 U.S. Capitol Building;

1 (v) temporarily erecting the Harriet Tubman statue in the
2 Rotunda of the Capitol for the unveiling ceremony;

3 (vi) expenses related to the unveiling ceremony; and

4 (vii) any other expenses that may be incurred by the Harriet
5 Tubman Statue Commission; and

6 (3) represents the State in selecting the sculptor for the Harriet
7 Tubman statue.

8 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
9 October 1, 2012.