

# HOUSE BILL 1429

P1

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CF SB 1069

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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–Melnyk, B. Robinson, Stukes, Tarrant, Valderrama, ~~and Washington~~ Washington, Hammen, Pendergrass, Bromwell, Donoghue, Elliott, Frank, Hubbard, Kach, Kipke, McDonough, Morhaim, Murphy, Oaks, Ready, and Reznik

Introduced and read first time: March 1, 2012

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

Re–referred to: Health and Government Operations, March 5, 2012

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 21, 2012

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

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

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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.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- 1 (i) paying the sculptor;
- 2 (ii) carving or casting the Harriet Tubman statue;
- 3 (iii) creating a pedestal and any desired inscription;
- 4 (iv) transporting the Harriet Tubman statue and pedestal to the  
5 U.S. Capitol Building;
- 6 (v) temporarily erecting the Harriet Tubman statue in the  
7 Rotunda of the Capitol for the unveiling ceremony;
- 8 (vi) expenses related to the unveiling ceremony; and
- 9 (vii) any other expenses that may be incurred by the Harriet  
10 Tubman Statue Commission; and
- 11 (3) represents the State in selecting the sculptor for the Harriet  
12 Tubman statue.

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

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.