

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 4

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By: **Senators Pugh, Benson, Conway, Jones–Rodwell, Manno, McFadden,
Montgomery, and Raskin**

Introduced and read first time: February 3, 2012

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

1 A Senate Joint Resolution concerning

2 **National Harriet Tubman Day**

3 FOR the purpose of requesting that the President of the United States declare a
4 certain day as National Harriet Tubman Day.

5 WHEREAS, Harriet Tubman was born a slave under the given name Araminta
6 Ross in Maryland circa 1820; and

7 WHEREAS, Beaten severely as a child, she also suffered a traumatic head
8 injury at the hands of a slave owner early in her life that caused a lifetime of
9 headaches, seizures, and vision difficulties; and

10 WHEREAS, In 1849, she fled North to freedom and then immediately returned
11 to Maryland, risking her life to free her family; and

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

15 WHEREAS, She became a “conductor” on the Underground Railroad, risking
16 her life time and time again to return to Maryland and lead slaves to freedom; and

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

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

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



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1 WHEREAS, After the Civil War, she devoted herself to women's suffrage, the
2 care of orphans and invalids, and the establishment of freedmen's schools in the
3 South; and

4 WHEREAS, The 100th anniversary of her death occurs on March 10, 2013; now,
5 therefore, be it

6 RESOLVED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the
7 General Assembly of Maryland urges the President of the United States to declare
8 March 10, 2013, as National Harriet Tubman Day; and be it further

9 RESOLVED, That a copy of this Resolution be forwarded by the Department of
10 Legislative Services to President Barack Obama, The White House, 1600
11 Pennsylvania Ave., Washington, D.C., 20500.