

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2012 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Revised

House Bill 1429

(Delegate Lee, *et al.*)

Health and Government Operations

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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State Government - Statue of Harriet Tubman

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This bill requires the Governor to authorize the gift of a statue of Harriet Tubman from the citizens of Maryland to the U.S. government, to request the U.S. Congress to place the statue in Emancipation Hall in the U.S. Capitol Visitor Center or another appropriate federal property in Washington, DC, and to establish the Harriet Tubman Statue Commission. Under the supervision and direction of the State Treasurer, the commission is responsible for raising private funds to cover costs associated with the statue, and represents the State in selecting the sculptor of the statue. Commission members are appointed by the Governor from certain nonprofit organizations and other groups.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** State finances are not directly affected, in that private funds will be used to pay costs associated with the statue. In addition, the Treasurer's Office can provide supervision and direction using existing resources; and the Governor's Office can make the required authorization, request to the U.S. Congress, and commission appointments with existing resources.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law/Background:** The U.S. 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 U.S. Capitol. 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. Subject to the limit of two statues per state within the Capitol Building, the Architect of the U.S. Capitol, with specified approval and advice, may relocate statues within the Capitol (*i.e.*, to locations in the Capitol Building but outside of the National Statuary Hall).

Both statues provided by Maryland to the National Statuary 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 is of John Hanson, 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. Neither statue is currently located within Statuary Hall.

The Capitol Visitor Center, the Capitol Building's most recent extension, was completed in 2008. The visitor center's central space is named Emancipation Hall in recognition of the contribution of enslaved laborers in construction of the Capitol Building. Several of the 100 statues in the National Statuary Hall Collection are displayed in Emancipation Hall. Emancipation Hall also contains two busts, one of which depicts Sojourner Truth, who was born into slavery and who after gaining freedom advocated for women's rights and abolition of slavery.

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. In her later years, Tubman became active in the women's suffrage movement. The 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her death occurs on March 10, 2013. The National Museum of African American History and Culture, whose permanent location will be on the National Mall in Washington, DC, cites a collection of 39 belongings of Tubman's as one of its most notable collections.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** SB 1069 (Senator Pugh) - Rules.

**Information Source(s):** Governor's Office, Maryland State Treasurer's Office,  
Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 8, 2012  
ncs/hlb Revised - Enrolled Bill - May 17, 2012

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