

Chapter 455

(House Bill 1393)

AN ACT concerning

St. Mary's County – John Hanson Briscoe Circuit Courthouse for St. Mary's County

FOR the purpose of renaming the St. Mary's County Circuit Courthouse, located in Leonardtown, St. Mary's County, the John Hanson Briscoe Circuit Courthouse for St. Mary's County; and generally relating to the renaming of the St. Mary's County Circuit Courthouse, located in Leonardtown, St. Mary's County.

BY adding to

The Public Local Laws of St. Mary's County

Section 19–3.

Article 19 – Public Local Laws of Maryland

(2007 Edition and February 2013 Supplement, as amended)

Preamble

WHEREAS, Judge John Hanson Briscoe was elected in 1962 to the Maryland House of Delegates, where he represented St. Mary's County and served as Chair of the Natural Resources Committee, the Environmental Matters Committee, and the Ways and Means Committee before he was elected Speaker of the House of Delegates in 1973; and

WHEREAS, As a legislator, Judge Briscoe was instrumental in the passage of State civil rights laws, the expansion of Point Lookout State Park, and the creation of Greenwell State Park and the College of Southern Maryland; and

WHEREAS, Judge Briscoe was respected for his powers of persuasion and mediation and served as Speaker of the House of Delegates from 1973 until his retirement in 1979; and

WHEREAS, Judge Briscoe was appointed in 1985 to the St. Mary's County Circuit Court, 7th Judicial Circuit, where he served with distinction until his retirement in 2002; and

WHEREAS, Judge Briscoe made historic and environmental preservation central tenets of his career; and

WHEREAS, Judge Briscoe spearheaded erosion mediation efforts to save St. Clement's Island, the birthplace of Maryland; and

WHEREAS, As President of the Historic Sotterley Foundation, Judge Briscoe dedicated himself to establishing Sotterley Plantation as a National Historic Landmark and to preserving Sotterley Plantation as a vital public museum and educational site; and

WHEREAS, Throughout his life, Judge Briscoe demonstrated an exceptional level of selfless service and essential humanity and decency, ensuring that his compassion and commitment would remain as a lasting legacy to the people of St. Mary's County and the State of Maryland; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly wishes to express its profound respect for, and deep gratitude to, Judge John Hanson Briscoe, and to name the St. Mary's County Circuit Courthouse in his honor, and in honor of his service to St. Mary's County and the State of Maryland; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article 19 – St. Mary's County

19-3.

THE CIRCUIT COURTHOUSE, LOCATED AT 41605 COURTHOUSE DRIVE, LEONARDTOWN, ST. MARY'S COUNTY, MARYLAND, SHALL BE RENAMED THE JOHN HANSON BRISCOE CIRCUIT COURTHOUSE FOR ST. MARY'S COUNTY.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2014.

Approved by the Governor, May 5, 2014.