

HOUSE BILL 354

L1, P1

5lr1257

By: **Calvert County Delegation**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2015

Assigned to: Environment and Transportation

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Calvert County – Task Force to Study the Commemoration of Harriet Elizabeth**
3 **Brown**

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study the Commemoration of Harriet
5 Elizabeth Brown; providing for the composition and chair of the Task Force;
6 prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation, but
7 authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses; requiring the Task Force to
8 study, hold public hearings, and make recommendations regarding certain matters;
9 requiring the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to the Governor
10 and to the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the
11 termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force to Study the
12 Commemoration of Harriet Elizabeth Brown.

13 Preamble

14 WHEREAS, Harriet Elizabeth Brown worked as a teacher and principal at the Mt.
15 Hope Elementary School in Calvert County from 1931 to 1973; and

16 WHEREAS, During the period of racially segregated education, Ms. Brown became
17 aware that African American teachers were paid significantly less than their white
18 counterparts with the same level of education and experience; and

19 WHEREAS, In 1937, Ms. Brown enlisted the aid of a young attorney named
20 Thurgood Marshall, then special counsel for the NAACP, to challenge the inequity of
21 separate pay scales for public school teachers based on race; and

22 WHEREAS, The landmark case was settled in Ms. Brown's favor by the Calvert
23 County Board of Education on December 27, 1937, and was a turning point for salary
24 equalization in the State of Maryland; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WHEREAS, Harriet Elizabeth Brown, a civil rights pioneer and long-time resident
2 of the State of Maryland, died on January 1, 2009, at the age of 101; now, therefore,

3 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
4 That:

5 (a) There is a Task Force to Study the Commemoration of Harriet Elizabeth
6 Brown.

7 (b) The Task Force consists of the following members:

8 (1) the Chair of the Calvert County Commission for Women;

9 (2) one member of the County Commissioners of Calvert County, appointed
10 by the County Commissioners;

11 (3) the Superintendent of the Calvert County Public School System, or the
12 Superintendent's designee;

13 (4) one representative of the Calvert County NAACP, appointed by the
14 Calvert County Delegation to the General Assembly;

15 (5) one representative of the Calvert County Historical Society, appointed
16 by the Calvert County Delegation to the General Assembly;

17 (6) one member of the House of Delegates who represents Calvert County,
18 appointed by the Calvert County House Delegation; and

19 (7) one member of the Senate of Maryland who represents Calvert County,
20 appointed by the Calvert County Senators.

21 (c) The Chair of the Calvert County Commission for Women shall be the chair of
22 the Task Force.

23 (d) A member of the Task Force:

24 (1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but

25 (2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State
26 Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget.

27 (e) The Task Force shall:

28 (1) study and make recommendations on the commemoration of Harriet
29 Elizabeth Brown, such as renaming a State building or designating a State roadway in
30 honor of Harriet Elizabeth Brown;

1 (2) hold public hearings to gather public input and recommendations; and

2 (3) consider the cost-effectiveness of its findings before making its
3 recommendations.

4 (f) On or before December 31, 2015, the Task Force shall report its findings and
5 recommendations to the Governor and, in accordance with § 2-1246 of the State
6 Government Article, the General Assembly.

7 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
8 1, 2015. It shall remain effective for a period of 1 year and, at the end of June 30, 2016,
9 with no further action required by the General Assembly, this Act shall be abrogated and
10 of no further force and effect.