

Chapter 242

(House Bill 354)

AN ACT concerning

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

FOR the purpose of establishing the Task Force to Study the Commemoration of Harriet Elizabeth Brown; providing for the composition ~~and chair, chair, and staff~~ of the Task Force; ~~prohibiting a member of the Task Force from receiving certain compensation, but authorizing the reimbursement of certain expenses;~~ requiring the Task Force to study, hold public hearings, and make recommendations regarding certain matters; requiring the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to *the County Commissioners of Calvert County*, the Governor, and to the General Assembly on or before a certain date; providing for the termination of this Act; and generally relating to the Task Force to Study the Commemoration of Harriet Elizabeth Brown.

Preamble

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- (1) the Chair of the Calvert County Commission for Women;
- (2) one member of the County Commissioners of Calvert County, appointed by the County Commissioners;
- (3) the Superintendent of the Calvert County Public School System, or the Superintendent's designee; and
- (4) the following members, appointed by the Calvert County Delegation to the General Assembly:
- ~~(4) (i) one representative of the Calvert County NAACP, appointed by the Calvert County Delegation to the General Assembly;~~
- ~~(5) (ii) one representative of the Calvert County Historical Society, appointed by the Calvert County Delegation to the General Assembly;~~
- ~~(6) (iii) one member of the House of Delegates who represents Calvert County, appointed by the Calvert County House Delegation; or the Delegate's designee; and~~
~~and~~
- ~~(7) (iv) one member of the Senate of Maryland who represents Calvert County, appointed by the Calvert County Senators; and or the Senator's designee.~~
- ~~(8) the Secretary of General Services, or the Secretary's designee.~~
- (c) The Chair of the Calvert County Commission for Women shall be the chair of the Task Force.
- (d) ~~A member of the Task Force:~~
- ~~(1) may not receive compensation as a member of the Task Force; but~~
- ~~(2) is entitled to reimbursement for expenses under the Standard State Travel Regulations, as provided in the State budget~~ The staff of the Calvert County Delegation to the General Assembly shall provide staff to the Task Force.
- (e) The Task Force shall:
- (1) study and make recommendations on the commemoration of Harriet Elizabeth Brown, such as renaming ~~a State building or designating a State roadway~~ an elementary or secondary school, a building connected with an institution of higher education, a school board facility, or any other education-related center or building located in Calvert County in honor of Harriet Elizabeth Brown;

(2) consider in its recommendation an appropriate way to commemorate Harriet Elizabeth Brown given her legacy as an educator and the region in which she resided from 1937 through the remainder of her life;

~~(3)~~ (3) hold public hearings to gather public input and recommendations; and

~~(4)~~ (4) consider the cost-effectiveness of its findings before making its recommendations.

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

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

Approved by the Governor, May 12, 2015.