

Chapter 313

(Senate Bill 879)

AN ACT concerning

**Primary and Secondary Education – Black History Month – Harriet Tubman
and Frederick Douglass**

FOR the purpose of requiring certain public schools to devote a certain part of ~~the~~ *at least one* day to exercises that relate to Black History Month with an emphasis on certain individuals and the contributions they made in the fight against slavery; and generally relating to Black History Month and Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass.

BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
Article – Education
Section 7–103(c)(3)
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2018 Replacement Volume and 2018 Supplement)

Preamble

WHEREAS, Both Harriet Tubman and Frederick Douglass were abolitionists and political activists in the late 1800's whose contributions were instrumental in the fight against slavery; and

WHEREAS, Both Tubman and Douglass have roots in Maryland, Tubman having been born a slave in Dorchester County, Maryland and Douglass having escaped from slavery in Talbot County, Maryland; and

WHEREAS, Tubman's efforts in the operation of the Underground Railroad resulted in 13 missions that rescued and freed approximately 70 enslaved individuals including family, friends, and others; and

WHEREAS, Douglass was a well-known orator, writer, and statesman who published multiple autobiographies that were influential in promoting the cause of abolition; and

WHEREAS, The State of Maryland celebrates Black History Month in the month of February every year; now, therefore,

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

Article – Education

7-103.

(c) (3) The public schools shall devote a part of ~~the~~ **AT LEAST ONE** day to appropriate exercises for **EACH OF** the following [days]:

- (i) Washington's Birthday;
- (ii) Lincoln's Birthday;
- (iii) Veterans' Day;
- (iv) Columbus Day;
- (v) Arbor Day; [and]

(VI) BLACK HISTORY MONTH, WITH AN EMPHASIS ON HARRIET TUBMAN AND FREDERICK DOUGLASS AND THE CONTRIBUTIONS THEY MADE IN THE FIGHT AGAINST SLAVERY; AND

[(vi)] **(VII)** Any other day of national significance.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2019.

Approved by the Governor, April 30, 2019.