By: Delegates M. Fisher, Clark, Hornberger, Krebs, and Thiam

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2022
Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

1 State House Trust – Lawyer’s Mall – Commemoration of Landmark Civil Rights Case Brown v. Calvert County Board of Education

FOR the purpose of requiring the State House Trust to add to the list of landmark cases engraved on Lawyer’s Mall in front of the statue of Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall the case of Brown v. Calvert County Board of Education; and generally relating to the commemoration of Brown v. Calvert County Board of Education.

BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,

Article – State Government
Section 9–502 and 9–505
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2021 Replacement Volume)

Preamble

WHEREAS, Harriet Elizabeth Brown, long–time resident of Calvert County and the State of Maryland, was a civil rights pioneer who was instrumental in ensuring pay equality for public school teachers regardless of race; and

WHEREAS, In 1937, Ms. Brown and her NAACP attorney, Thurgood Marshall, successfully used the 14th Amendment to challenge the Calvert County Public School System for paying African American teachers significantly less than their white counterparts with the same level of education and experience; 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, The day following the settlement of the case in Ms. Brown’s favor, Maryland Governor Harry W. Nice publicly pledged to support legislation and budget

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.
[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.
increases to equalize salaries paid to African American and white teachers across the State; and

WHEREAS, With the support of Governor Nice, a subsequent victory in federal court, and continued pressure from NAACP teacher pay cases, the General Assembly passed a 1941 law to equalize pay for African American and white teachers; and

WHEREAS, Buoyed by these successes, the NAACP took on unequal teacher salaries, based on race, in school districts across the South; and

WHEREAS, The General Assembly believes that it is appropriate to commemorate the case of Brown v. Calvert County Board of Education as a landmark civil rights case successfully fought by a future Associate Justice of the United States, Thurgood Marshall, who is commemorated by a statue on Lawyer's Mall in Annapolis; now, therefore,

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

Article – State Government

There is a State House Trust.

(a) In addition to any duties set forth elsewhere, the Trust shall:

(1) be responsible for the restoration and preservation of the State House;

(2) be responsible for the landscaping and construction of Lawyer's Mall;

and

(3) disapprove or approve and supervise:

(i) any proposed repair, improvement, or other change to the State House or to any other building within State Circle, including any change to the furnishings or fixtures of those buildings;

(ii) any proposed landscaping of the grounds of those buildings; and

(iii) any proposed improvement, nonemergency repair, or other change to Lawyer's Mall.

(b) The Trust is not required under subsection (a)(2) or (3)(iii) of this section to be responsible for, or disapprove or approve and supervise, the coordination, security, and scheduling of rallies and other events held on Lawyer's Mall.
SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, notwithstanding § 9–505(a)(3)(iii) of the State Government Article, the State House Trust shall add to the list of landmark cases engraved on the grounds of Lawyer’s Mall directly in front of the statue of Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall the 1937 case of Brown v. Calvert County Board of Education.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2022.