

HOUSE BILL 166

J1

6lr1223

(PRE-FILED)

By: ~~Delegate Metzgar~~ Delegates Metzgar, Crutchfield, Fair, Kerr, Lehman, Ruth, Sample-Hughes, Schmidt, Solomon, Terrasa, Wells, Wilson, and Wu

Requested: October 16, 2025

Introduced and read first time: January 14, 2026

Assigned to: Government, Labor, and Elections

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 3, 2026

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 ~~Public Health~~ State Government – Henrietta Lacks Commission – Establishment
3 (Henrietta Lacks Commission of Maryland Act of 2026)

4 FOR the purpose of establishing the Henrietta Lacks Commission to take certain actions
5 related to the legacy of Henrietta Lacks and the use of HeLa cells; and generally
6 relating to the Henrietta Lacks Commission.

7 ~~BY adding to~~

8 ~~Article – Health – General~~

9 ~~Section 24–2801 and 24–2802 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 28. Henrietta~~
10 ~~Lacks Commission”~~

11 ~~Annotated Code of Maryland~~

12 ~~(2023 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)~~

13 BY adding to

14 Article – State Government

15 Section 9–4201 and 9–4202 to be under the new subtitle “Subtitle 42. Henrietta
16 Lacks Commission”

17 Annotated Code of Maryland

18 (2021 Replacement Volume and 2025 Supplement)

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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 Article - ~~Health~~ General State Government

2 SUBTITLE ~~28.~~ 42. HENRIETTA LACKS COMMISSION.

3 ~~24-2801.~~ 9-4201.

4 IN THIS SUBTITLE, "COMMISSION" MEANS THE HENRIETTA LACKS
5 COMMISSION.

6 ~~24-2802.~~ 9-4202.

7 (A) THERE IS A HENRIETTA LACKS COMMISSION.

8 (B) THE COMMISSION CONSISTS OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS:

9 (1) ~~ONE~~ ONE MEMBER OF THE SENATE OF MARYLAND, APPOINTED
10 BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE;

11 (2) ~~ONE~~ ONE MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF DELEGATES, APPOINTED BY
12 THE SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE;

13 (3) ~~THE~~ THE SECRETARY OF ~~HEALTH~~ HEALTH SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC
14 MOBILITY, OR THE SECRETARY'S DESIGNEE;

15 (4) ~~THE~~ THE SECRETARY OF COMMERCE, OR THE SECRETARY'S
16 DESIGNEE;

17 (5) ~~THE~~ THE STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION, OR THE
18 SUPERINTENDENT'S DESIGNEE; AND

19 (6) ~~THE CHAIR OF THE STATE ANATOMY BOARD, OR THE CHAIR'S~~
20 ~~DESIGNEE; AND~~

21 ~~(7)~~ THE THE FOLLOWING MEMBERS, APPOINTED BY THE GOVERNOR:

22 (I) ~~ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE STATE ETHICS~~
23 ~~COMMISSION;~~

24 (II) ~~ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LIFE SCIENCES ADVISORY~~
25 ~~BOARD;~~

26 ~~(III)~~ ONE ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND ECONOMIC
27 DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION;

1 ~~(IV)~~ (II) ~~ONE~~ ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND
2 BOARD OF TOURISM; AND

3 ~~(V)~~ (III) ~~ONE~~ ONE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE MARYLAND
4 STATE ARCHIVES.

5 (C) ~~THE GOVERNOR~~ SECRETARY OF SOCIAL AND ECONOMIC MOBILITY
6 SHALL DESIGNATE THE CHAIR OF THE COMMISSION.

7 (D) THE TERM OF A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION IS 2 YEARS.

8 (E) THE STATE AGENCIES REPRESENTED ON THE COMMISSION JOINTLY
9 SHALL PROVIDE STAFF FOR THE COMMISSION.

10 (F) A MEMBER OF THE COMMISSION:

11 (1) ~~MAY~~ MAY NOT RECEIVE COMPENSATION AS A MEMBER OF THE
12 COMMISSION; BUT

13 (2) ~~IS~~ IS ENTITLED TO REIMBURSEMENT FOR EXPENSES UNDER THE
14 STANDARD STATE TRAVEL REGULATIONS, AS PROVIDED IN THE STATE BUDGET.

15 (G) THE COMMISSION SHALL:

16 (1) ~~IN CONSULTATION WITH THE O'NEILL INSTITUTE OF NATIONAL~~
17 ~~AND GLOBAL HEALTH LAW, CONDUCT BIOETHICAL OVERSIGHT OF LIFE SCIENCES~~
18 ~~ACTIVITIES IN THE STATE THAT INVOLVE HUMAN RESEARCH AND BODY, ORGAN,~~
19 ~~AND TISSUE DONATION FOR MEDICAL TRAINING;~~

20 ~~(2)~~ ~~PROMOTE~~ PROMOTE EDUCATION OF THE LIFE OF HENRIETTA
21 LACKS AND HeLa SCIENCE AS DEVELOPED BY THE NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF
22 HEALTH;

23 ~~(3)~~ (2) ~~CURATE~~ CURATE A REGISTRY OF SIGNIFICANT TRIBUTES TO
24 HENRIETTA LACKS;

25 ~~(4)~~ (3) ~~WORK~~ WORK WITH APPROPRIATE STATE AGENCIES TO
26 INCLUDE TRIBUTES TO HENRIETTA LACKS IN STATE TOURISM CAMPAIGNS;

27 ~~(5)~~ (4) ~~PROMOTE~~ PROMOTE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT OF THE
28 TURNER STATION COMMUNITY OF DUNDALK; AND

1 ~~(6)~~ (5) ~~MAKE~~ MAKE RECOMMENDATIONS ON IMPLEMENTING THE
2 GOALS OF THE COMMISSION.

3 (H) ON OR BEFORE DECEMBER 1 EACH YEAR, BEGINNING IN 2027, THE
4 COMMISSION SHALL REPORT ON ITS ACTIVITIES TO THE GOVERNOR AND, IN
5 ACCORDANCE WITH § 2-1257 OF ~~THE STATE GOVERNMENT ARTICLE~~ THIS ARTICLE,
6 THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY.

7 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
8 October 1, 2026.

Approved:

Governor.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.

President of the Senate.