



Maryland DEPARTMENT OF PLANNING

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HEARING DATE: February 1st at 1:30 PM

BILL NO: SB0341

COMMITTEE: Education, Energy, and the Environment

POSITION: Support

FOR INFORMATION CONTACT: Andrew Wilson (443) 366-4224

TITLE: Commission on African American History and Culture – Museum Name Change

BILL ANALYSIS:

This bill would alter the name of the “Banneker-Douglass Museum” to the “Banneker-Douglass-Tubman Museum.”

POSITION AND RATIONALE:

The Banneker-Douglass Museum, administered by the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture, was opened to the public on February 24, 1984. The name of the museum honors two great African American Marylanders – the mathematician and astronomer Benjamin Banneker who was born in Baltimore County and the 19th century African American civil rights activist Frederick Douglass who was born in Talbot County. Notably, both are men.

The Maryland Historical Trust is in full support of renaming the museum to also recognize the nationally significant figure of Harriet Tubman who was born in Dorchester County. Tubman, although best known for her work as an abolitionist, lived a life of many accomplishments - serving as a spy during the Civil War, fighting for women’s suffrage, and late in life establishing a nursing home for poor and aged African Americans in Auburn, New York. Renaming the museum to celebrate the achievements of all three of these Maryland heroes is an exciting and appropriate way to celebrate the museum’s 40th anniversary.

