

SENATE BILL 351

P1

11r1450
CF HB 455

By: **Senators Pugh, Benson, Conway, Currie, Forehand, Gladden,
Jones-Rodwell, Kelley, Montgomery, and Ramirez**

Introduced and read first time: February 2, 2011

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 25, 2011

CHAPTER _____

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Request to Place a Statue of Harriet Tubman in the National Statuary Hall**
3 **Collection**

4 FOR the purpose of requesting ~~that the Joint Committee on the Library of Congress~~
5 ~~approve the replacement of the statue of the Honorable John Hanson with a~~
6 ~~statue of Harriet Tubman in the National Statuary Hall Collection in the~~
7 ~~United States Capitol; providing certain information to the Joint Committee on~~
8 ~~the Library of Congress in accordance with the Procedure for Replacement of~~
9 ~~Statues in the National Statuary Hall Collection; specifying that the Harriet~~
10 ~~Tubman Statue Commission will represent the State in selecting a sculptor;~~
11 ~~specifying that a coalition of interested individuals, nonprofit organizations, and~~
12 ~~other groups will supply the funds to be used for certain purposes related to the~~
13 ~~statue; requiring the Governor to appoint members of the Harriet Tubman~~
14 ~~Statue Commission; requiring the Governor to submit certain documents to the~~
15 ~~Architect of the Capitol~~ a certain exception to allow the State of Maryland to
16 place a statue of Harriet Tubman in the National Statuary Hall Collection, or
17 for the statue to otherwise be given certain prominence, in addition to certain
18 existing Maryland representatives in the collection; requesting the members of
19 the Maryland congressional delegation to pursue this exception through the
20 Joint Committee on the Library of Congress; and generally relating to a request
21 to place a statue of Harriet Tubman in the National Statuary Hall Collection.

22 Preamble

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 WHEREAS, The State of Maryland is proud of the national and State
2 contributions of the two individuals, Charles Carroll of Carrollton and John Hanson,
3 whose statues have formed a part of the National Statuary Hall Collection since 1903;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Charles Carroll of Carrollton is revered as a statesman and the
6 only Catholic signer of the Declaration of Independence; and

7 WHEREAS, Charles Carroll was a spokesman against the actions of the colonial
8 Governor of Maryland writing under the famous pseudonym, the “First Citizen”; was
9 commissioned by Benjamin Franklin and Samuel Chase to seek aid from England in
10 the War for Independence; served in the Continental Congress, as the first United
11 States Senator from Maryland, as State Senator, and as Senate President; and helped
12 draft the Maryland Constitution; and

13 WHEREAS, John Hanson was one of the strongest colonial advocates of
14 independence and was active in raising troops and providing arms while serving in the
15 Maryland General Assembly;

16 WHEREAS, John Hanson served as a delegate to the Continental Congress and
17 was unanimously elected President of the “United States in Congress Assembled”
18 under the Articles of Confederation and, as the presiding officer of Congress, was
19 responsible for initiating a number of programs that established a world position for
20 the new country, including the beginnings of a consular service, a post office
21 department, chartering of a national bank, progress towards taking the first census,
22 and adoption of a uniform system of coinage; and

23 WHEREAS, The State of Maryland is a place of rich and diverse history that
24 reaches far beyond the boundaries of the State and is unparalleled by most other
25 states in the country; and

26 WHEREAS, In addition to the statues honoring two men who risked their lives
27 and fortunes to support and advocate for our nation’s independence, the State of
28 Maryland recognizes the national contributions of a third individual and wishes to
29 contribute a third statue in honor of another patriot and fighter for freedom in our
30 country, Harriet Tubman; and

31 WHEREAS, Harriet Tubman escaped slavery in the State of Maryland and
32 went on to become one of the most prominent “conductors” of the Underground
33 Railroad guiding slaves to freedom; and

34 WHEREAS, Harriet Tubman was a premier national leader in the movement to
35 fight against slavery and for women’s suffrage, and served the Union Army and our
36 country during the Civil War, first as a cook and nurse, and later as an armed scout
37 and spy; and

1 WHEREAS, It would benefit the nation and visitors to the nation's Capitol to be
2 made aware of Harriet Tubman's contributions if an exception were made and an
3 additional statue for Maryland were permitted in the National Statuary Hall
4 Collection; and

5 WHEREAS, The Congress of the United States has permitted other states to
6 add statues to the National Statuary Hall Collection; now, therefore,

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

9 (a) (1) The General Assembly of Maryland respectfully requests that an
10 exception be made to allow the State of Maryland to place a third statue in the
11 National Statuary Hall Collection, in addition to the existing Maryland
12 representatives of John Hanson and Charles Carroll, or for the third statue to
13 otherwise be given great prominence.

14 (2) The third statue would be of Harriet Tubman, an African American
15 woman and most notable national hero for her contributions to the history of our
16 country.

17 (b) The General Assembly respectfully requests the members of the
18 Maryland congressional delegation to pursue, through the Joint Committee on the
19 Library of Congress, the exception requested under this Act to allow a third statue in
20 Statuary Hall that would recognize the significance of Harriet Tubman in the history
21 of Maryland and the nation.

22 ~~WHEREAS, By act of Congress, each state is invited to provide statues, not~~
23 ~~exceeding two in number, of deceased persons who have been citizens of the state and~~
24 ~~illustrious for their historic renown or for distinguished civic or military services, as~~
25 ~~the state shall determine to be worthy of national commemoration in a national~~
26 ~~statuary hall; and~~

27 ~~WHEREAS, The State of Maryland in years past did provide for the placing of~~
28 ~~two statues of distinguished citizens of Maryland in the National Statuary Hall~~
29 ~~Collection in the United States Capitol; and~~

30 ~~WHEREAS, One of the statues is of the Honorable John Hanson, born in 1715,~~
31 ~~who was a Maryland merchant and delegate to the Continental Congress. From 1781~~
32 ~~to 1782, he served as President of the United States in Congress assembled under the~~
33 ~~Articles of Confederation. This was largely a ceremonial role, and after a 1-year term,~~
34 ~~Hanson retired to the country, where he died in 1783; and~~

35 ~~WHEREAS, John Hanson can best be honored by locating his statue in a place~~
36 ~~of honor in Annapolis, the capital of the State of Maryland, where it may be enjoyed by~~
37 ~~our citizens and visitors; and~~

~~WHEREAS, The citizens of the State of Maryland wish to replace the statue of John Hanson with a statue of Harriet Tubman for placement in the National Statuary Hall Collection in recognition of her many contributions to the State and to the nation, including her work on the Underground Railroad and as a Union spy during the Civil War; now, therefore,~~

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

~~(a) The State of Maryland requests that the Joint Committee on the Library of Congress approve the replacement of Maryland's statue of the Honorable John Hanson in the National Statuary Hall Collection with a statue of Harriet Tubman.~~

~~(b) (1) In accordance with the Procedure for Replacement of Statues in the National Statuary Hall Collection, the State of Maryland submits the following information in paragraphs (2), (3), (4), and (5) of this subsection for consideration by the Joint Committee on the Library of Congress.~~

~~(2) Harriet Tubman, a citizen of Maryland, was born a slave under the given name Araminta Ross in Dorchester County, Maryland, in about 1820. Beaten severely as a child, she also suffered a traumatic head injury at the hand of a slave owner early in her life which caused a lifetime of headaches, seizures, and visions. In 1849, she fled north to freedom and then immediately returned to Maryland, risking her life to free her family. She joined the Underground Railroad, which was a secret network for free African Americans and white sympathizers who helped runaways escape the South. She became a conductor on the Underground Railroad, risking her life time and time again to return to Maryland and lead slaves to freedom. Known as "the Moses of her people," she was so successful that furious slaveholders put a huge price on her head. When the Civil War began, she became a Union spy, organizing an espionage network of slaves and freedmen who operated behind Confederate lines. On several occasions, she led military raiding parties and also tended to the Union wounded as an army nurse. After the Civil War, she devoted herself to women's suffrage, the care of orphans and invalids, and the establishment of freedmen's schools in the South.~~

~~(3) The contributions of Harriet Tubman to the State of Maryland and to the country merits inclusion of a statue of her in the National Statuary Hall Collection.~~

~~(4) The Harriet Tubman Statue Commission will represent the State in selecting the sculptor for the Harriet Tubman statue.~~

~~(5) The Harriet Tubman Statue Commission will consist of the following seven members:~~

~~(i) one member of the Senate of Maryland, appointed by the President of the Senate;~~

1 (ii) ~~one member of the House of Delegates, appointed by the~~
2 ~~Speaker of the House; and~~

3 (iii) ~~five members, appointed by the Governor, who are~~
4 ~~representatives from the nonprofit organizations and other groups that contributed to~~
5 ~~the passage of this Act and will supply the funds under paragraph (6) of this~~
6 ~~subsection; and~~

7 (6) ~~A coalition of interested individuals, nonprofit organizations, and~~
8 ~~other groups will supply the funds to be used to cover the costs of replacing the John~~
9 ~~Hanson statue with a Harriet Tubman statue, including:~~

10 (i) ~~paying the sculptor;~~

11 (ii) ~~carving or casting the Harriet Tubman statue;~~

12 (iii) ~~creating a pedestal and any desired inscription;~~

13 (iv) ~~transporting the Harriet Tubman statue and pedestal to the~~
14 ~~United States Capitol;~~

15 (v) ~~removing and transporting the John Hanson statue from~~
16 ~~Washington to Annapolis;~~

17 (vi) ~~temporarily erecting the new Harriet Tubman statue in the~~
18 ~~Rotunda of the Capitol for the unveiling ceremony;~~

19 (vii) ~~expenses related to the unveiling ceremony; and~~

20 (viii) ~~and any other expenses that may be incurred by the Harriet~~
21 ~~Tubman Statue Commission.~~

22 (e) ~~The Governor shall:~~

23 (1) ~~appoint the members of the Harriet Tubman Statue Commission;~~
24 ~~and~~

25 (2) ~~as required by the Procedure for Replacement of Statues in the~~
26 ~~National Statuary Hall Collection, submit to the Architect of the Capitol a copy of this~~
27 ~~Act, along with a letter from the Governor requesting approval from the Joint~~
28 ~~Committee on the Library of Congress to replace Maryland's statue of the Honorable~~
29 ~~John Hanson with a statue of Harriet Tubman.~~

30 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
31 October 1, 2011.

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.