

114TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 4812

To direct the Joint Committee on the Library to enter into an agreement with the Harriet Tubman Statue Commission of the State of Maryland for the acceptance of a statue of Harriet Tubman for display in a suitable location in the United States Capitol.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 17, 2016

Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. HOYER, Mr. CUMMINGS, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. SARBANES, Ms. EDWARDS, Mr. HARRIS, and Mr. DELANEY) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on House Administration

A BILL

To direct the Joint Committee on the Library to enter into an agreement with the Harriet Tubman Statue Commission of the State of Maryland for the acceptance of a statue of Harriet Tubman for display in a suitable location in the United States Capitol.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. FINDINGS.**

4 Congress finds as follows:

1 (1) Harriet Tubman was born a slave under the
2 given name Araminta Ross in Maryland in about
3 1820.

4 (2) Beaten severely as a child, she suffered a
5 traumatic head injury at the hand of a slave owner
6 early in her life, which caused a lifetime of head-
7 aches, seizures, and vision difficulties.

8 (3) In 1849, she fled north to freedom and then
9 immediately returned to Maryland, risking her life to
10 free her family.

11 (4) She joined the Underground Railroad,
12 which was a secret network for free African-Ameri-
13 cans and White sympathizers who helped runaways
14 escape the South.

15 (5) She became known as “the Moses to her
16 people” as a conductor on the Underground Rail-
17 road, risking her life time and time again to return
18 to Maryland and lead slaves to freedom.

19 (6) When the Civil War began, she became a
20 Union spy, organizing an espionage network of
21 slaves and freedmen who operated behind Confed-
22 erate lines.

23 (7) On several occasions, she led military raid-
24 ing parties and also tended to the Union wounded
25 as an army nurse.

1 (8) After the Civil War, she devoted herself to
2 women's suffrage, the care of orphans and invalids,
3 and the establishment of freedmen's schools.

4 (9) The State of Maryland, where Harriet Tub-
5 man was born, has authorized a gift of a statue of
6 Harriet Tubman from the citizens of Maryland to
7 the United States government to commemorate her
8 work on behalf of civil rights and service to our Na-
9 tion.

10 **SEC. 2. AGREEMENT FOR ACCEPTANCE OF STATUE OF HAR-**
11 **RIET TUBMAN; DISPLAY OF STATUE IN CAP-**
12 **ITOL.**

13 (a) AGREEMENT WITH MARYLAND COMMISSION.—
14 Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment
15 of this Act, the Joint Committee on the Library shall enter
16 into an agreement with the Harriet Tubman Statue Com-
17 mission of the State of Maryland under which the Com-
18 mission shall provide, and the Joint Committee shall ac-
19 cept, a statue of Harriet Tubman, under such terms and
20 conditions as the Joint Committee and the Commission
21 consider appropriate.

22 (b) DISPLAY IN CAPITOL.—After receiving the statue
23 provided under the agreement entered into under sub-
24 section (a), the Joint Committee on the Library shall place

- 1 the statue in a suitable permanent location in the United
- 2 States Capitol.

