

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2011 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

Senate Bill 351

(Senator Pugh, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Health and Government Operations

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

This bill requests that an exception be made to allow the State of Maryland to place a third statue (of Harriet Tubman) in the National Statuary Hall Collection, or the statue otherwise be given great prominence. The members of the Maryland congressional delegation are requested to pursue the exception through the Joint Committee on the Library of Congress.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The bill is not expected to materially affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: The United States Congress created the National Statuary Hall Collection in 1864 and authorized the collection to allow each state to provide two statues of notable citizens for display in the United States Capital. Any state may request the Joint Committee on the Library of Congress (which oversees the collection) to approve the replacement of a statue the state has provided for display if (1) the request has been approved by a resolution adopted by the state legislature; (2) the request has been approved by the governor of the state; and (3) either the statue to be replaced has been on display for 10 years or the joint committee waives this requirement. Legislative Services is unaware of any formal procedures for requesting the type of exception described in the bill.

Both statues provided by Maryland to the National Statutory Hall Collection were sculpted by Richard E. Brooks and given to the collection in 1903. One of these statues is of Charles Carroll, who was a signer of the Declaration of Independence, a drafter of the Maryland Constitution, and Maryland's Senator. The other statue is of John Hanson, one of the strongest colonial advocates of independence. He served as a delegate to the Continental Congress and, later, as "President of the United States in Congress Assembled" under the Articles of Confederation.

Harriet Tubman was born a slave in Dorchester County, Maryland. She later became a Union spy and, as one of the most well-known conductors on the Underground Railroad, helped lead many slaves to freedom.

State Fiscal Effect: The requests made under the bill are not, in and of themselves, expected to materially affect State finances. This estimate does not account for any costs associated with the creation of a third statue, should its placement be approved by the Joint Committee on the Library of Congress. It is assumed, however, that those costs would likely be covered with private funds.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 455 (Delegate Lee, *et al.*) - Health and Government Operations.

Information Source(s): Architect of the Capitol, Office of the Governor, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 14, 2011
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