

115TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 402

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 prominent location in the United States Capitol.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 15, 2017

Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Mr. CARDIN) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Rules and 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 prominent 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 the following:

5 (1) Harriet Tubman was born a slave under the
6 given name Araminta Ross in Maryland in about
7 1820.

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

5 (3) In 1849, she fled north to freedom and then
6 immediately returned to Maryland, risking her life to
7 free her family.

8 (4) She joined the Underground Railroad,
9 which was a secret network for free African-Ameri-
10 cans and White sympathizers who helped runaway
11 slaves escape the South.

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

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

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

23 (8) After the Civil War, she devoted herself to
24 women’s suffrage, the care of orphans and invalids,
25 and the establishment of freedmen’s schools.

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

7 **SEC. 2. AGREEMENT FOR ACCEPTANCE OF STATUE OF HAR-**
 8 **RIET TUBMAN; DISPLAY OF STATUE IN CAP-**
 9 **ITOL.**

10 (a) AGREEMENT WITH MARYLAND COMMISSION.—
 11 Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this
 12 Act, the Joint Committee on the Library shall enter into
 13 an agreement with the Harriet Tubman Statue Commis-
 14 sion of the State of Maryland under which the Commission
 15 shall provide, and the Joint Committee shall accept, a
 16 statue of Harriet Tubman, under such terms and condi-
 17 tions as the Joint Committee and the Commission con-
 18 sider appropriate.

19 (b) DISPLAY IN CAPITOL.—After receiving the statue
 20 provided under the agreement entered into under sub-
 21 section (a), the Joint Committee on the Library shall place
 22 the statue in a prominent permanent location in the
 23 United States Capitol.

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