

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 663

To direct the Joint Committee on the Library, in accordance with section 1831 of the Revised Statutes, to accept a statue depicting Harriet Tubman from the Harriet Tubman Statue Commission of Maryland and display the statue in a prominent location in the Capitol.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

MARCH 10, 2021

Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) 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, in accordance with section 1831 of the Revised Statutes, to accept a statue depicting Harriet Tubman from the Harriet Tubman Statue Commission of Maryland and display the statue in a prominent location in the 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 into slavery
6 under the given name Araminta Ross in Maryland in
7 about 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 of 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 Harriet Tubman Statue Commission of
 2 Maryland has authorized a gift of a statue of Har-
 3 riet Tubman to the United States Government to
 4 commemorate her work on behalf of civil rights and
 5 service to our Nation.

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

9 (a) AUTHORIZATION.—Not later than 2 years after
 10 the date of enactment of this Act, the Joint Committee
 11 on the Library shall accept from the Harriet Tubman
 12 Statue Commission of Maryland the donation of a statue
 13 depicting Harriet Tubman, subject to the terms and condi-
 14 tions that the Joint Committee considers appropriate.

15 (b) DISPLAY IN CAPITOL.—After receiving the statue
 16 provided under the agreement entered into under sub-
 17 section (a), the Architect of the Capitol, under the direc-
 18 tion of the Joint Committee on the Library, shall place
 19 the statue in a prominent permanent location in the Cap-
 20 itol.

21 (c) COSTS.—All costs associated with the donation,
 22 including transportation of the statue to, and placement
 23 in, the Capitol, shall be paid by the Harriet Tubman Stat-
 24 ue Commission of Maryland.

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