

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 791

To establish the Justice Thurgood Marshall National Historic Site in the State of Maryland as an affiliated area of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 27, 2025

Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Ms. ALSOBROOKS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

A BILL

To establish the Justice Thurgood Marshall National Historic Site in the State of Maryland as an affiliated area of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

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. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Justice Thurgood Mar-
5 shall National Historic Site Establishment Act of 2025”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSES.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that—

8 (1) Thurgood Marshall—

1 (A) led the National Association for the
2 Advancement of Colored People Legal Defense
3 and Educational Fund from 1940 to 1961; and

4 (B) successfully argued 29 of 32 civil
5 rights cases before the United States Supreme
6 Court, including the landmark 1954 Brown v.
7 Board of Education case that ended racial seg-
8regation of public schools;

9 (2) President John F. Kennedy appointed
10 Thurgood Marshall to serve as a judge on the
11 United States Court of Appeals for the 2nd Circuit
12 from 1961 to 1965;

13 (3) President Lyndon B. Johnson appointed
14 Thurgood Marshall to serve as United States Soli-
15citor General from 1965 to 1967;

16 (4) nominated by President Lyndon Johnson
17 and confirmed by the Senate, Thurgood Marshall be-
18came the first African American to serve on the
19 United States Supreme Court, serving as an Asso-
20ciate Justice from 1967 to 1991;

21 (5) as a result of his long legal career,
22 Thurgood Marshall is credited with ending legal seg-
23regation in the United States;

24 (6) Public School 103, now known as the “Jus-
25tice Thurgood Marshall School”, located at 1315 Di-

1 vision Street in Baltimore, Maryland, was the site of
2 the elementary education of Thurgood Marshall;

3 (7) the Justice Thurgood Marshall School is
4 owned and operated as a museum by the Beloved
5 Community Services Corporation, which has com-
6 pleted a historic restoration for adaptive reuse of the
7 School;

8 (8) Congress authorized the National Park
9 Service to prepare a special resource study of Public
10 School 103 in 2019 which was transmitted by the
11 National Park Service to Congress in 2023; and

12 (9) in the special resource study referred to in
13 paragraph (8), the National Park Service found that
14 Public School 103 met the criteria for national sig-
15 nificance and suitability for addition to the National
16 Park System.

17 (b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this Act is to pre-
18 serve, protect, and interpret for the benefit of future gen-
19 erations the significant historic contributions of Justice
20 Thurgood Marshall by—

21 (1) establishing the elementary school attended
22 by Marshall as a national historic site; and

23 (2) providing for the administration of the Na-
24 tional Historic Site as an affiliated area of the Na-
25 tional Park System.

1 **SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.**

2 In this Act:

3 (1) MANAGEMENT ENTITY.—The term “man-
4 agement entity” means the management entity for
5 the National Historic Site designated by section
6 4(e).

7 (2) NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE.—The term “Na-
8 tional Historic Site” means the Justice Thurgood
9 Marshall National Historic Site established by sec-
10 tion 4(a).

11 (3) SCHOOL.—The term “School” means the
12 building located at 1315 Division Street in Balti-
13 more, Maryland, known as Public School 103, which
14 is owned and managed by the Beloved Community
15 Services Corporation, a nonprofit organization estab-
16 lished in Baltimore, Maryland.

17 (4) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means
18 the Secretary of the Interior.

19 **SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF THE JUSTICE THURGOOD MAR-**
20 **SHALL NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE.**

21 (a) IN GENERAL.—There is established as an affili-
22 ated area of the National Park System the Justice
23 Thurgood Marshall National Historic Site.

24 (b) BOUNDARY.—The National Historic Site shall
25 consist of the School, as generally depicted on the map
26 entitled “Justice Thurgood Marshall School National His-

1 toric Site Proposed Boundary”, numbered 962/194939,
2 and dated September 2024.

3 (c) OWNERSHIP.—The School shall continue to be
4 owned, operated, and managed by the Beloved Community
5 Services Corporation.

6 (d) ADMINISTRATION.—The National Historic Site
7 shall be managed in a manner consistent with—

8 (1) this Act; and

9 (2) the laws generally applicable to units of the
10 National Park System.

11 (e) MANAGEMENT ENTITY.—The Beloved Commu-
12 nity Services Corporation shall be the management entity
13 for the National Historic Site.

14 (f) AGREEMENTS.—The Secretary—

15 (1) may provide technical assistance to, and
16 enter into cooperative agreements with, the manage-
17 ment entity for the purpose of providing financial
18 assistance for the marketing, marking, interpreta-
19 tion, and preservation of the National Historic Site;
20 and

21 (2) shall enter into an agreement with the man-
22 agement entity that delineates the roles and respon-
23 sibilities for the management of the area consistent
24 with the policies and standards that apply to units
25 of the National Park System.

1 (g) LIMITED ROLE OF THE SECRETARY.—Nothing in
2 this Act authorizes the Secretary—

3 (1) to acquire the School; or

4 (2) to assume overall financial responsibility for
5 the operation, maintenance, or management of the
6 National Historic Site.

7 **SEC. 5. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

8 There are authorized to be appropriated such sums
9 as are necessary to carry out this Act.

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