

HOUSE BILL 1232

P1

2lr2294

By: **Delegates M. Fisher, Clark, Hornberger, Krebs, and Thiam**

Introduced and read first time: February 11, 2022

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State House Trust – Lawyer’s Mall – Commemoration of Landmark Civil Rights**
3 **Case Brown v. Calvert County Board of Education**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the State House Trust to add to the list of landmark cases
5 engraved on Lawyer’s Mall in front of the statue of Supreme Court Justice Thurgood
6 Marshall the case of Brown v. Calvert County Board of Education; and generally
7 relating to the commemoration of Brown v. Calvert County Board of Education.

8 BY repealing and reenacting, without amendments,
9 Article – State Government
10 Section 9–502 and 9–505
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2021 Replacement Volume)

13 Preamble

14 WHEREAS, Harriet Elizabeth Brown, long–time resident of Calvert County and the
15 State of Maryland, was a civil rights pioneer who was instrumental in ensuring pay
16 equality for public school teachers regardless of race; and

17 WHEREAS, In 1937, Ms. Brown and her NAACP attorney, Thurgood Marshall,
18 successfully used the 14th Amendment to challenge the Calvert County Public School
19 System for paying African American teachers significantly less than their white
20 counterparts with the same level of education and experience; and

21 WHEREAS, The landmark case was settled in Ms. Brown’s favor by the Calvert
22 County Board of Education on December 27, 1937, and was a turning point for salary
23 equalization in the State of Maryland; and

24 WHEREAS, The day following the settlement of the case in Ms. Brown’s favor,
25 Maryland Governor Harry W. Nice publicly pledged to support legislation and budget

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 increases to equalize salaries paid to African American and white teachers across the State;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, With the support of Governor Nice, a subsequent victory in federal
4 court, and continued pressure from NAACP teacher pay cases, the General Assembly
5 passed a 1941 law to equalize pay for African American and white teachers; and

6 WHEREAS, Buoyed by these successes, the NAACP took on unequal teacher
7 salaries, based on race, in school districts across the South; and

8 WHEREAS, The General Assembly believes that it is appropriate to commemorate
9 the case of Brown v. Calvert County Board of Education as a landmark civil rights case
10 successfully fought by a future Associate Justice of the United States, Thurgood Marshall,
11 who is commemorated by a statue on Lawyer's Mall in Annapolis; now, therefore,

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
13 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

14 **Article – State Government**

15 9–502.

16 There is a State House Trust.

17 9–505.

18 (a) In addition to any duties set forth elsewhere, the Trust shall:

19 (1) be responsible for the restoration and preservation of the State House;

20 (2) be responsible for the landscaping and construction of Lawyer's Mall;

21 and

22 (3) disapprove or approve and supervise:

23 (i) any proposed repair, improvement, or other change to the State
24 House or to any other building within State Circle, including any change to the furnishings
25 or fixtures of those buildings;

26 (ii) any proposed landscaping of the grounds of those buildings; and

27 (iii) any proposed improvement, nonemergency repair, or other
28 change to Lawyer's Mall.

29 (b) The Trust is not required under subsection (a)(2) or (3)(iii) of this section to be
30 responsible for, or disapprove or approve and supervise, the coordination, security, and
31 scheduling of rallies and other events held on Lawyer's Mall.

1 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That, notwithstanding §
2 9–505(a)(3)(iii) of the State Government Article, the State House Trust shall add to the list
3 of landmark cases engraved on the grounds of Lawyer’s Mall directly in front of the statue
4 of Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall the 1937 case of Brown v. Calvert County
5 Board of Education.

6 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
7 October 1, 2022.