

SENATE BILL 328

R1

7lr1380

By: **Senators Nathan–Pulliam, Salling, Benson, Conway, Currie, Eckardt, Edwards, Ferguson, Kagan, Kelley, King, Madaleno, Manno, Mathias, McFadden, Middleton, Pinsky, Ramirez, Robinson, Rosapepe, Smith, Young, and Zucker**

Introduced and read first time: January 25, 2017

Assigned to: Finance

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Highways – Dedication – Henrietta Lacks Way**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the State Highway Administration to dedicate a certain
4 portion of Dundalk Avenue in Baltimore County as Henrietta Lacks Way; and
5 generally relating to State highway dedications.

6 BY adding to

7 Article – Transportation

8 Section 8–659

9 Annotated Code of Maryland

10 (2015 Replacement Volume and 2016 Supplement)

11 Preamble

12 WHEREAS, Henrietta Lacks was a tobacco farmer born on August 1, 1920 in
13 Roanoke, Virginia; and

14 WHEREAS, She died on October 4, 1951 at the age of 31 from cervical cancer, and
15 was survived by her husband David and five children; and

16 WHEREAS, She was diagnosed with the cancer at Johns Hopkins Hospital in 1951
17 and the cancer took only 8 months to end her life; and

18 WHEREAS, Her tumorous cells were harvested for research without her knowledge
19 at Johns Hopkins Hospital; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



WHEREAS, Researchers were astonished that these cells continued to live for a long time outside of the body in petri dishes and reproduced rapidly, dramatically increasing their usefulness to researchers; and

WHEREAS, Using the first two letters of each of her names, the cells became known as “HeLa” cells, the first immortal human cell line in history; and

WHEREAS, HeLa cells have furthered the understanding of cancer, cloning, gene mapping, in vitro fertilization, HIV/AIDS, and chemotherapy, traveled into space, been exposed to nuclear testing, helped Jonas Salk develop the polio vaccine for human use, and been instrumental in creating the cancer drug tomaxiphin; and

WHEREAS, The HeLa cells were sold and became responsible for countless treatments and experiments that resulted in billions of dollars in earnings while Henrietta’s family languished in poverty in Turner Station, a small community in Dundalk, Maryland; and

WHEREAS, These events have raised legal and moral issues about patient consent and the rights of an individual to the genetic material and tissue of the individual; and

WHEREAS, The National Institutes of Health has entered into an agreement with the Lacks family that gives the family some control over access to Henrietta Lacks’ genome data; and

WHEREAS, HeLa cells continue to grow and divide to this day, facilitating further significant medical and scientific advances; now, therefore,

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

Article – Transportation

8–659.

THE ADMINISTRATION SHALL DEDICATE THE PORTION OF DUNDALK AVENUE IN BALTIMORE COUNTY BETWEEN THE 3400 BLOCK AND 3800 BLOCK, INCLUSIVE, AS HENRIETTA LACKS WAY.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2017.