

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~~ Zucker, and Oaks

Introduced and read first time: January 25, 2017

Assigned to: Finance

Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

Senate action: Adopted

Read second time: March 13, 2017

CHAPTER _____

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~~ Maryland Route 695A in Baltimore County as Henrietta
5 Lacks Way; and 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

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 WHEREAS, ~~Her tumorous cells were harvested for research without her knowledge~~
2 ~~at Johns Hopkins Hospital~~ Some of her cancer cells were collected for research, as was the
3 case at the time for all cervical cancer patients at Johns Hopkins, regardless of race or
4 socioeconomic status; and

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

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

10 WHEREAS, The Johns Hopkins researchers who discovered the unique qualities of
11 the HeLa cells shared them widely and at no cost for scientific research, thereby enabling
12 scientists across the world to study cancer and many other diseases; and

13 WHEREAS, Since that time, and continuing to this day, HeLa cells have furthered
14 the understanding of cancer, cloning, gene mapping, in vitro fertilization, HIV/AIDS, and
15 chemotherapy, traveled into space, been exposed to nuclear testing, helped Jonas Salk
16 develop the polio vaccine for human use, and been instrumental in creating the cancer drug
17 ~~to maxiphan~~ tamoxifen, among other medical advances; and

18 WHEREAS, The HeLa cells were ~~sole~~ later sold by private companies outside
19 Maryland and became responsible for countless treatments and experiments that resulted
20 in billions of dollars in earnings while Henrietta’s family languished in poverty in Turner
21 Station, a small community in Dundalk, Maryland; and

22 WHEREAS, ~~These events have raised legal and moral issues about patient consent~~
23 ~~and the rights of an individual to the genetic material and tissue of the individual~~ The
24 events surrounding the discovery of Henrietta Lacks’ immortal cells have contributed
25 significantly to the national discussion about patient consent and the rights that one has
26 over one’s own genetic material and tissue; and

27 WHEREAS, This discussion has helped to establish national standards for patient
28 consent with respect to the donation and use of human tissue cells that all medical research
29 organizations in the United States strictly adhere to today, but that did not exist at the
30 time that Henrietta Lacks’ cells were collected; and

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

34 WHEREAS, HeLa cells continue to grow and divide to this day, facilitating further
35 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,~~
MARYLAND ROUTE 695A (BROENING HIGHWAY) THAT IS LOCATED BETWEEN THE
BALTIMORE CITY-BALTIMORE COUNTY LINE AND THE INTERSECTION OF
MARYLAND ROUTE 695A WITH MARYLAND AVENUE AND AVON BEACH ROAD AS
HENRIETTA LACKS WAY.**

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

Approved:

Governor.

President of the Senate.

Speaker of the House of Delegates.