

SENATE BILL No. 336

March 23, 2005, Introduced by Senators SCHAUER, JACOBS, BARCIA, BASHAM, HARDIMAN, BERNERO, SCOTT, GEORGE, CHERRY, GOSCHKA, BIRKHOLZ, LELAND, EMERSON, THOMAS, VAN WOERKOM, CLARKE, CLARK-COLEMAN, CROPSEY, JOHNSON, PATTERSON, BROWN, CASSIS, ALLEN, PRUSI, SWITALSKI, BRATER, BISHOP, JELINEK, OLSHOVE, HAMMERSTROM, KUIPERS, GARCIA and McMANUS and referred to the Committee on Government Operations.

A bill to designate November 26 of each year as Sojourner Truth Day in the state of Michigan.

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF MICHIGAN ENACT:

1 Sec. 1. The legislature recognizes the fundamental
2 contribution Sojourner Truth made to the cause of abolition of
3 slavery and the establishment of equal rights for women and to
4 several other significant social reform and human justice movements
5 in the nineteenth century. Truth toured the nation for over 40
6 years as a forceful and passionate advocate for the dispossessed,
7 using her quick wit and fearless tongue to deliver her message of
8 equality and justice. She lived in Battle Creek, Michigan, from
9 1857 until her death on November 26, 1883. Empowered by her
10 religious faith, the former slave worked tirelessly for many years
11 to transform national attitudes and institutions. According to

1 Nell Painter, Princeton professor and Truth biographer, "No other
2 woman who had gone through the ordeal of slavery managed to survive
3 with sufficient strength, poise, and self-confidence to become a
4 public presence over the long term". Designating Sojourner Truth
5 Day in the state of Michigan will not only acknowledge the
6 importance of this national figure in the antislavery and human
7 justice movements, but will also recognize her strong ties to the
8 state during her 26 years of residence here. In recognition of
9 this great woman, the legislature declares November 26 of each year
10 to be known as "Sojourner Truth Day".