



Ohio Legislative Service Commission

Bill Analysis

Bethany Boyd

H.B. 87*

131st General Assembly
(As Reported by H. State Government)

Reps. Slesnick, Ashford, Leland, Cera, Brenner, Fedor, Boyd, Antonio, Lepore-Hagan, Reece, Sheehy

BILL SUMMARY

- Designates October 7 as "Moses Fleetwood Walker Day" in honor of the Ohioan who was the first African-American major league baseball player under contract.

CONTENT AND OPERATION

The bill designates October 7 as "Moses Fleetwood Walker Day" in honor of the Ohioan who was the first African-American major league baseball player under contract.¹ The bill states that in declaring October 7 "Moses Fleetwood Walker Day," the General Assembly recognizes the contribution that Mr. Walker made to the integration of professional athletics. Born on October 7, 1856, in Mount Pleasant, Ohio, Mr. Walker played one season with the Toledo Blue Stockings and died in Cleveland in 1924.

According to Ohio Historical Marker #47-48 located in front of Fifth Third Field in Toledo, Ohio, Mr. Walker attended and played baseball at Oberlin College and the University of Michigan. In 1883, he joined the newly formed Toledo Blue Stockings and became the first African-American major league ballplayer when Toledo joined the Major League-sanctioned American Association the following year. He played as a barehanded catcher.²

* This analysis was prepared before the report of the House State Government Committee appeared in the House Journal. Note that the list of co-sponsors and the legislative history may be incomplete.

¹ R.C. 5.2298.

² www.remarkableohio.org.

HISTORY

ACTION

DATE

Introduced
Reported, H. State Government

02-25-15

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