

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2011 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 439 (Delegate Lee, *et al.*)
Health and Government Operations

State Government - Commemorative Days - Korean American Day

This bill requires the Governor, in recognition of the economic and cultural contributions that Korean-Americans have made to the State, to annually proclaim January 13 as Korean-American Day.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Commemorating Korean-American Day does not affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Eight official commemorative days and three months are recognized in State law as shown in **Exhibit 1**. The Governor also must issue a proclamation each year encouraging citizens and other individuals to observe a moment of silence at 3 p.m. on Memorial Day to unite in remembrance and commemorate the heroic acts and efforts of Marylanders who have served and died in the U.S. armed forces.

Background: Maryland is home to more than 45,000 Korean-Americans. Montgomery County has the largest Korean-American community in Maryland. The community there numbers almost 18,000, representing 1.8% of the county's population. Next is Howard County, where more than 10,000 Korean-Americans represent 3.6% of the county's population.

The first Korean immigrants to the United States arrived in Honolulu, Hawaii on January 13, 1903. Over the next two years, approximately 7,000 Koreans immigrated to the United States working as contract laborers for sugar plantations. Today, the Korean-American community totals over 1.3 million people.

Exhibit 1
Official Commemorative Days and Months in Maryland

Asian Lunar New Year Day ¹	January/February
Black History Month	February
Women's History Month	March
John Hanson's Birthday ²	April 13
Negro Baseball League Day ³	May
Law Day	May 1
Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Services Workers Day ⁴	June
Maryland Charter Day	June 20
Hispanic Heritage Month ⁵	September/October
Poetry Day	October 15
Annapolis Charter Day	December 17

¹Day designated as New Year on the Asian lunar calendar.

²John Hanson served as the first president of the Continental Congress under the Articles of Confederation from 1781 to 1782.

³Commemorated on the second Saturday in May.

⁴Commemorated on the first Sunday in June.

⁵Commemorated from September 15 to October 15.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 150 (Senator Garagiola, *et al.*) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

Information Source(s): U.S. Census Bureau (2005-2009 American Community Survey), Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 8, 2011
ncs/hlb

Analysis by: Jennifer A. Ellick

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510