

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2012 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1168 (Delegates Lee and Pena-Melnyk)  
Health and Government Operations

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State Government - Commemorative Months - Lyme Disease Awareness Month

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This bill requires the Governor to annually proclaim the month of May as Lyme Disease Awareness Month, in recognition of the need for increased awareness of the disease.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Commemorating Lyme Disease Awareness Month does not affect State finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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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:** Lyme disease is a bacterial disease transmitted to humans by the bite of an infected tick. It is most prevalent in the mid-Atlantic region. Symptoms include fever, headache, fatigue, and skin rash. Most cases are successfully treated with antibiotics, but untreated Lyme disease can spread to the heart and the nervous system.

Maryland is ranked the eighth highest in the nation for incidence of Lyme disease. In 2010, there were 1,163 confirmed cases of Lyme disease in Maryland, accounting for 5% of the nation's cases. May is typically observed as Lyme Disease Awareness Month.

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**Exhibit 1**  
**Official Commemorative Days and Months in Maryland**

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

<sup>1</sup>Day designated as new year on the Asian lunar calendar.

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

<sup>3</sup>Commemorated on the second Saturday in May.

<sup>4</sup>Commemorated on the first Sunday in June.

<sup>5</sup>Commemorated from September 15 to October 15.

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**Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 1, 2012  
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Analysis by: Caroline L. Boice

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