

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
First Reader

House Bill 660 (Delegate S. Howard, *et al.*)  
Health and Government Operations

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General Provisions - Commemorative Days - Equestrian Day

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This bill requires the Governor to annually proclaim the day designated for the final race of the Triple Crown of Thoroughbred Racing as Equestrian Day.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Commemorating Equestrian Day does not affect State finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** Twelve official commemorative days and six 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 has 79,100 horses, more than 16,040 equine facilities, and about 770 licensed stables. In 2012, Maryland's horse industry was valued at \$5.6 billion and employed more than 28,000 people. The Thoroughbred Horse is the State horse of Maryland.

The Belmont Stakes is the final race of the Triple Crown of Thoroughbred Racing and is run on a Saturday in June three weeks after the Preakness Stakes is run at Pimlico Race Course. The Belmont Stakes will be run on Saturday, June 10, 2017.

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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
Irish-American Heritage Month	March
Women's History Month	March
Crime Victim and Advocate Day	April 3
John Hanson's Birthday <sup>2</sup>	April 13
Maryland Centenarians Day <sup>3</sup>	May
Negro Baseball League Day <sup>4</sup>	May
Law Day	May 1
Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Services Workers Day <sup>5</sup>	June
Juneteenth National Freedom Day	June 19
Maryland Charter Day	June 20
Hispanic Heritage Month <sup>6</sup>	September/October
German-American Heritage Month	October
Poetry Day	October 15
American Indian Heritage Month	November
Maryland Emancipation Day	November 1
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 Thursday in May.

<sup>4</sup>Commemorated on the second Saturday in May.

<sup>5</sup>Commemorated on the first Sunday in June.

<sup>6</sup>Commemorated from September 15 to October 15.

Source: Department of Legislative Services

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## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Maryland Department of Agriculture, Department of Legislative Services

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