

Department of Legislative Services  
2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
Third Reader

House Bill 91

(Delegate Morhaim, *et al.*)

Health and Government Operations

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**General Provisions - Commemorative Days - National Healthcare Decisions Day**

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This bill requires the Governor to annually proclaim April 16 as National Healthcare Decisions Day.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Commemorating National Healthcare Decisions 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:** The ninth annual National Healthcare Decisions Day, as established by a nonprofit dedicated to the cause, will be commemorated on April 16, 2016. Healthcare Decisions Day is designed to raise public awareness of the need to plan ahead for healthcare decisions related to end of life care and medical decision making whenever patients are unable to speak for themselves and to encourage the specific use of Advance Directives to communicate these important healthcare decisions.

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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:** HB 45 of 2015 passed the House with amendments and received a hearing in the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, but no further action was taken. HB 134 of 2014 received a hearing in the House Health and Government Operations Committee, but no further action was taken.

**Cross File:** SB 442 (Senator Manno, *et al.*) – Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

**Information Source(s):** National Healthcare Decision Day, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 1, 2016  
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