

Department of Legislative Services
2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 614 (Delegate S. Howard, *et al.*)
Health and Government Operations

General Provisions - Commemorative Days - Watermen's Day

This bill requires the Governor to annually proclaim the last day of winter (the day before the spring equinox) as Watermen's Day.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Commemorating Watermen's Day does not affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

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: Watermen of the Chesapeake Bay harvest many species of seafood in different seasons, including blue crabs in summer, oysters in fall, and striped bass and perch in winter. Some watermen clam year round while others harvest crabs and oysters. Some watermen take out fishing parties in the summer and commercial fish in the winter. Most watermen have the equipment and gear necessary to do all of the above. According to the Department of Natural Resources, there were 5,848 licensed watermen in the 2014-2015 license year.

Exhibit 1
Official Commemorative Days and Months in Maryland

Asian Lunar New Year Day ¹	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 ²	April 13
Maryland Centenarians Day ³	May
Negro Baseball League Day ⁴	May
Law Day	May 1
Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Services Workers Day ⁵	June
Juneteenth National Freedom Day	June 19
Maryland Charter Day	June 20
Hispanic Heritage Month ⁶	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

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 Thursday in May.

⁴Commemorated on the second Saturday in May.

⁵Commemorated on the first Sunday in June.

⁶Commemorated from September 15 to October 15.

Source: Department of Legislative Services

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Watermen's Association, Department of Natural Resources, Department of Legislative Services

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