

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2021 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 25 (Senator Eckardt)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Commemorative Days - Maryland Voting Equity Reform Day

This bill requires the Governor to annually proclaim the fourth Tuesday in October as Maryland Voting Equity Reform Day.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Compliance with the bill does not affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Generally, “at-large” is the designation for members of a governing body (*e.g.*, a county) who are elected or appointed by the entire jurisdiction. Until 1986, county councils were elected at-large by the entire county, rather than for local representation within a district. Chapters 707 and 708 of 1986, among other things, eliminated the practice of at-large voting for county commissioners and implemented single-member districts.

Sixteen official commemorative days, seven months, and one week 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 3:00 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.

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
Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day	March 30
Crime Victim and Advocate Commemorative Day	April 3
John Hanson's Birthday ²	April 13
National Healthcare Decisions Day	April 16
Maryland Centenarians Day ³	May
Negro Baseball League Day ⁴	May
Law Day U.S.A.	May 1
Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Services Workers Day ⁵	June
Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week ⁶	June
Juneteenth National Freedom Day	June 19
Maryland Charter Day	June 20
Thurgood Marshall Day	July 2
Caribbean Heritage Month	August
Hispanic Heritage Month ⁷	September/October
German-American Heritage Month	October
South Asian American Heritage Day	October 2
Poetry Day	October 15
American Indian Heritage Month	November
Maryland Emancipation Day	November 1
Annapolis Charter Day	December 17

¹ Day designated as new year on the Asian lunar calendar.

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

³ Commemorated on the second Thursday in May.

⁴ Commemorated on the second Saturday in May.

⁵ Commemorated on the first Sunday in June.

⁶ Commemorated during the second week in June.

⁷ Commemorated from September 15 to October 15.

Source: Department of Legislative Services

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: SB 464 of 2020 received a hearing in the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, but no further action was taken. Its cross file, HB 950, received a hearing in the House Health and Government Operations Committee, but no further action was taken.

Designated Cross File: HB 300 (Dorchester County Delegation) - Health and Government Operations.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 24, 2021
rh/jc

Analysis by: Thomas S. Elder

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