

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2021 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**First Reader**

House Bill 676 (Delegate Bhandari)  
Health and Government Operations

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**General Provisions – Commemorative Days – Dashain Day**

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This bill requires the Governor to annually proclaim October 14 as Dashain Day, which is a festival originating in parts of South Asia that celebrates and symbolizes the victory of good over evil.

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**Fiscal Summary**

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

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** 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.

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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             |
| Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day                             | March 30          |
| Crime Victim and Advocate Commemorative Day                   | April 3           |
| John Hanson's Birthday <sup>2</sup>                           | April 13          |
| National Healthcare Decisions Day                             | April 16          |
| Maryland Centenarians Day <sup>3</sup>                        | May               |
| Negro Baseball League Day <sup>4</sup>                        | May               |
| Law Day U.S.A.  | May 1             |
| Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Services Workers Day <sup>5</sup> | June              |
| Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week <sup>6</sup>                    | June              |
| Juneteenth National Freedom Day                               | June 19           |
| Maryland Charter Day  | June 20           |
| Thurgood Marshall Day   | July 2            |
| Caribbean Heritage Month                                      | August            |
| Hispanic Heritage Month <sup>7</sup>                          | 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       |

<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 during the second week in June.

<sup>7</sup> Commemorated from September 15 to October 15.

Source: Department of Legislative Services

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## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Designated Cross File:** SB 667 (Senator Rosapepe) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 5, 2021  
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