

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Enrolled - Revised

Senate Bill 35

(Senator Jackson)

Education, Energy, and the Environment

Government, Labor, and Elections

State Designations and Commemorative Days - State Shark, State Natural Sciences Museum, and Purple Lights Night

This bill designates the megalodon as the State shark and The Natural History Society of Maryland as the State natural sciences museum. The bill also requires the Governor to annually proclaim October 1 as Purple Lights Night to honor the individuals in the State who are victims or survivors of domestic violence and express support for the elimination of domestic violence in the State.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Since the adoption of the Maryland State Flag in 1904 and the adoption of the Black-eyed Susan as the State flower in 1918, the State has adopted many official symbols, as detailed in **Appendix – State Symbols of Maryland**. The Governor is also authorized to designate a citizen as the State’s Poet Laureate.

Twenty official commemorative days, seven months, and one week are recognized in State law, as shown in **Appendix – Commemorative Days and Months in Maryland**. 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.

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: HB 173 (Delegate Allen) - Government, Labor, and Elections.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 23, 2026
jg/jkb Third Reader - March 20, 2026
Revised - Amendment(s) - March 20, 2026
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Appendix – State Symbols of Maryland

<u>Type</u>	<u>Name</u>	<u>Statutory Authority</u>
Bird	Baltimore Oriole	Ch. 54 of 1947
Boat	Skipjack	Ch. 788 of 1985
Cat	Calico Cat	Ch. 194 of 2001
Cocktail	Original Maryland Orange Crush	Ch. 487 of 2025
Crustacean	Blue Crab	Ch. 724 of 1989
Dessert	Smith Island Cake	Chs. 164/165 of 2008
Dinosaur	<i>Astrodon johnstoni</i>	Chs. 403/404 of 1998
Dog	Chesapeake Bay Retriever	Ch. 156 of 1964
Drink	Milk	Ch. 220 of 1998
Exercise	Walking	Chs. 400/401 of 2008
Fish	Rockfish (Striped Bass)	Ch. 513 of 1965
Flower	Black-eyed Susan	Ch. 458 of 1918
Folk Dance	Square Dance	Ch. 707 of 1994
Fossil Shell	<i>Ecphora gardnerae</i>	Ch. 688 of 1994
Gem	Patuxent River Stone	Ch. 272 of 2004
Horse	Thoroughbred Horse	Ch. 359 of 2003
Insect	Baltimore Checkerspot Butterfly	Ch. 253 of 1973
Mineral	Chromite	Chs. 486/487 of 2025
Paleontology Collection and Research Center	Calvert Marine Museum	Chs. 742/743 of 2018
Reptile	Diamondback Terrapin	Ch. 476 of 1994
Spirit	Maryland Rye or Maryland Rye Whiskey	Chs. 308/309 of 2023
Sport	Jousting	Ch. 134 of 1962
Team Sport	Lacrosse	Ch. 272 of 2004
Theater	Center Stage	Ch. 1003 of 1978
Theater – Summer	Olney Theatre	Ch. 1003 of 1978
Tree	White Oak	Ch. 731 of 1941

Source: Maryland State Archives

Appendix – Official Commemorative Days and Months in Maryland

Asian Lunar New Year Day ¹	January/February
Maryland Holocaust Remembrance Day	January 27
Black History Month	February
Irish-American Heritage Month	March
Tuskegee Airmen Commemoration Day ²	March
Women’s History Month	March
6888 th Central Postal Directory Battalion Day	March 9
Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day	March 30
Crime Victim and Advocate Commemorative Day	April 3
John Hanson’s Birthday ³	April 13
National Healthcare Decisions Day	April 16
Maryland Centenarians Day ⁴	May
Negro Baseball League Day ⁵	May
Law Day U.S.A.	May 1
Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Services Workers Day ⁶	June
Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week ⁷	June
Maryland Charter Day	June 20
Thurgood Marshall Day	July 2
Caribbean Heritage Month	August
Hispanic Heritage Month ⁸	September/October
Maryland Veterans Suicide Prevention Day	September 30
German-American Heritage Month	October
South Asian American Heritage Day	October 2
Dashain Day	October 5
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.

²Commemorated on the fourth Thursday in March.

³John Hanson served as the first president of the Continental Congress under the Articles of Confederation from 1781 to 1782.

⁴Commemorated on the second Thursday in May.

⁵Commemorated on the second Saturday in May.

⁶Commemorated on the first Sunday in June.

⁷Commemorated during the second week in June.

⁸Commemorated from September 15 to October 15.

Source: Department of Legislative Services