

HOUSE BILL 647

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P1

2001 Regular Session
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By: **Delegates Hecht, Doory, Dypski, Mandel, A. Jones, Eckardt, Howard,
Conroy, Benson, Busch, Cadden, Clagett, Cryor, Donoghue, Frush,
Gladden, Greenip, Griffith, Grosfeld, Healey, Hubers, James, V. Jones,
Kirk, Kopp, Love, Marriott, McIntosh, Menes, Nathan-Pulliam, Petzold,
Pitkin, Rosso, and Stern**

Introduced and read first time: February 7, 2001
Assigned to: Commerce and Government Matters

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Government - Commemorative Months - Women's History Month**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Governor to proclaim the month of March each year
4 to be "Women's History Month".

5 BY adding to
6 Article - State Government
7 Section 13-501 to be under the new subtitle "Subtitle 5. Commemorative
8 Months"
9 Annotated Code of Maryland
10 (1999 Replacement Volume and 2000 Supplement)

11 Preamble

12 WHEREAS, American women of every race, class, and ethnic background have
13 made historic contributions to the growth and strength of the State in countless and
14 unrecorded ways; and

15 WHEREAS, American women have played and continue to play a critical
16 economic, social, and cultural role in every sphere of life in the State by constituting
17 a significant portion of the labor force working inside and outside of the home; and

18 WHEREAS, American women have played a unique role throughout the history
19 of the State by providing the majority of the volunteer labor force of the State; and

20 WHEREAS, American women were particularly important in the establishment
21 of early charitable, philanthropic, and cultural institutions in our State; and

22 WHEREAS, American women of every race, class, and ethnic background served
23 as early leaders in the forefront of every major progressive social change movement;
24 and

1 WHEREAS, American women have been leaders not only in securing their own
2 rights of suffrage and equal opportunity, but also in the abolitionist movement, the
3 emancipation movement, the industrial labor movement, the civil rights movement,
4 and other movements, especially the peace movement, which create a more fair and
5 just society for all; and

6 WHEREAS, American women have played and continue to play a significant
7 role in protecting and preserving the State's environmental resources; and

8 WHEREAS, Despite these contributions, the role of American women in history
9 has been consistently overlooked and undervalued in literature and the teaching and
10 study of American history; and

11 WHEREAS, In 1981, the United States Congress first designated the week of
12 March 7, 1982, as Women's History Week; and

13 WHEREAS, In 1987, the United States Congress approved the National
14 Women's History Month Resolution to expand the national celebration of women's
15 history to the entire month of March; and

16 WHEREAS, Since then, the United States Congress has annually approved this
17 resolution with bipartisan support, and the President of the United States has
18 annually proclaimed March as Women's History Month; and

19 WHEREAS, Advocates, parents, and community organizations in thousands of
20 American communities have acknowledged National Women's History Month as a
21 focus of celebration; and

22 WHEREAS, No month is set aside in the State to observe and honor women's
23 historical contributions to the State; now, therefore,

24 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF
25 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

26 **Article - State Government**

27 **SUBTITLE 5. COMMEMORATIVE MONTHS.**

28 13-501.

29 (A) IN RECOGNITION OF THE HISTORICAL CONTRIBUTIONS THAT WOMEN
30 HAVE MADE TO THE STATE, THE GOVERNOR SHALL PROCLAIM THE MONTH OF
31 MARCH EACH YEAR AS WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH.

32 (B) THE PROCLAMATION SHALL URGE EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL
33 ORGANIZATIONS TO OBSERVE WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH PROPERLY WITH
34 APPROPRIATE PROGRAMS, CEREMONIES, AND ACTIVITIES.

35 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
36 October 1, 2001.

