
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

Committee Report: Favorable
House action: Adopted
Read second time: March 16, 2001

CHAPTER _____

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

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

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

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

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

13 WHEREAS, Despite these contributions, the role of American women in history
14 has been consistently overlooked and undervalued in literature and the teaching and
15 study of American history; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

31 **Article - State Government**

32 **SUBTITLE 5. COMMEMORATIVE MONTHS.**

33 13-501.

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

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

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