
By: **Delegates Frank, Aumann, Bohanan, Boteler, Bromwell, Cadden,
Cluster, Elliott, Jennings, Kach, King, McComas, McDonough, Smigiel,
Sophocleus, V. Turner, Weir, and Weldon**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2006

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Government - Maryland Flag Day**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing Maryland Flag Day on a certain date each year; and
4 generally relating to the Maryland State Flag.

5 BY adding to

6 Article - State Government

7 Section 13-405

8 Annotated Code of Maryland

9 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

10 Preamble

11 WHEREAS, The Maryland State Flag was officially adopted as our State Flag
12 by the General Assembly on March 9, 1904; and

13 WHEREAS, The Maryland State Flag is the most unique and arguably the most
14 beautiful of all state flags;

15 WHEREAS, The Maryland State Flag features four panels with two designs
16 that represent the coat-of-arms of Lord Calvert's family; and

17 WHEREAS, The yellow and black design came from Lord Calvert's father's side,
18 the Calvert family, while the red and white cross design came from his mother's side,
19 the Crosslands; and

20 WHEREAS, During the Civil War, the Union soldiers who fought from
21 Maryland flew the yellow and black banner while the Confederate soldiers from
22 Maryland flew the red and white cross banner, which became known as the
23 "Maryland Cross"; and

24 WHEREAS, After the Civil War, Maryland's Fifth Regiment Armory, which was
25 composed of veterans from the North and the South, adopted a combination banner
26 honoring all those who fought from Maryland. This emblem, resembling the

1 Maryland State Seal, is still used as the insignia for the Maryland National Guard;
2 and

3 WHEREAS, Because the State Flag does not have a distinct top or bottom, it is
4 common to see the flag flown incorrectly; and

5 WHEREAS, An annual Maryland Flag Day would promote education on the
6 history of the flag and how it should be flown; and

7 WHEREAS, An annual Maryland Flag Day would also promote the display of
8 this beautiful banner; and

9 WHEREAS, There is no other symbol that symbolizes Maryland more than the
10 State Flag; and

11 WHEREAS, Governor Ehrlich proclaimed March 9, 2004, Maryland Flag Day to
12 celebrate the centennial of our State Flag; now, therefore,

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

15 **Article - State Government**

16 13-405.

17 (A) THE GOVERNOR ANNUALLY SHALL PROCLAIM MARCH 9 AS MARYLAND
18 FLAG DAY.

19 (B) THE PROCLAMATION SHALL:

20 (1) ENCOURAGE ALL CITIZENS OF MARYLAND TO DISPLAY THE
21 MARYLAND STATE FLAG ON THE OUTSIDE OF THEIR HOMES AND BUSINESSES; AND

22 (2) ENCOURAGE MARYLAND'S PUBLIC SCHOOLS TO:

23 (I) FLY THE STATE FLAG EACH DAY; AND

24 (II) TEACH STUDENTS ABOUT THE HISTORY OF THE STATE FLAG
25 AND HOW IT SHOULD BE FLOWN.

26 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
27 October 1, 2006.