
By: **Delegate Burns**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2006

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Government - Commemorative Months - Black History Months**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Governor to proclaim the months of January and
4 February to be "Black History Months".

5 BY adding to

6 Article - State Government

7 Section 13-502

8 Annotated Code of Maryland

9 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

10 Preamble

11 WHEREAS, February is the National Black History Month; and

12 WHEREAS, Many important events occurred during the month of January of
13 special importance to all Americans that play an important role in Black History,
14 including the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, the
15 passage the 13th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution by Congress on January 31,
16 1865, which abolished slavery, and the ratification of the 24th Amendment of the U.S.
17 Constitution on January 23, 1964, which made it illegal to condition the right to vote
18 in federal elections on the payment of a poll tax or other tax and made it easier for
19 Black Americans to register to vote; and

20 WHEREAS, Many famous Black Americans were born during the month of
21 January, including Martin Luther King, Jr., George Washington Carver, Sojourner
22 Truth, and Nathaniel Turner; and

23 WHEREAS, All Americans should learn about and recognize the achievements
24 of Black Americans, the important role that Black Americans played throughout the
25 entire history of the United States, and the scientific, literary, and social impact of
26 Black Americans on our world today; and

1 WHEREAS, The General Assembly believes that the months of January and
2 February should be commemorated as the Black History Months in Maryland; now,
3 therefore,

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

6 **Article - State Government**

7 13-502.

8 (A) IN RECOGNITION OF THE HISTORICAL CONTRIBUTIONS THAT BLACK
9 AMERICANS HAVE MADE TO THE STATE, THE GOVERNOR SHALL PROCLAIM THE
10 MONTHS OF JANUARY AND FEBRUARY EACH YEAR AS BLACK HISTORY MONTHS.

11 (B) THE PROCLAMATION SHALL URGE EDUCATIONAL AND CULTURAL
12 ORGANIZATIONS TO OBSERVE BLACK HISTORY MONTHS PROPERLY WITH
13 APPROPRIATE PROGRAMS, CEREMONIES, AND ACTIVITIES.

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