

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 324

(Delegate Lee, *et al.*)

Health and Government Operations

Education, Health, and Environmental  
Affairs

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State Government - Commemorative Days - Asian Lunar New Year Day

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This bill requires the Governor to proclaim the day designated as New Year on the Asian Lunar Calendar as Asian Lunar New Year Day.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Commemorating the Asian Lunar New Year would not affect State finances or operations.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** Three official commemorative days and one month are recognized in State law as shown in **Exhibit 1**. In addition, the Governor must issue a proclamation each year encouraging citizens and other individuals to observe a moment of silence at 3 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 United States armed forces.

**Background:** The new year on the Asian Lunar Calendar begins at the second lunar month after the winter solstice. Approximately 255,000 Asians live in Maryland, representing 4.6% of the State's population. Montgomery County is home to nearly one-half (46.7%) of Asians living in Maryland, with this community accounting for 12.9% of

the county's population. Statewide, the Asian community represents the second fastest growing racial group in Maryland, increasing by 19.4% over the last four years (April 2000 to July 2004) compared to 4.9% for all Marylanders. Most of this increase occurred in five counties: Montgomery (45.9%); Howard (19.4%); Baltimore (11.2%); Frederick (5.0%); and Anne Arundel (4.9%). **Exhibit 2** shows the number of Asians living in Maryland by county as of July 2004.

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**Exhibit 1**  
**Official Commemorative Days and Months in Maryland**

John Hanson's Birthday <sup>1</sup>	April 13
Law Day	May 1
Poetry Day	October 15
Women's History Month	March

<sup>1</sup>John Hanson served as the first president of the Continental Congress under the Articles of Confederation from 1781 to 1782.

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**Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** SB 89 (Senator Frosh, *et al.*) – Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

**Information Source(s):** U. S. Census Bureau, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 10, 2006  
ncs/rhh

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**Exhibit 2**  
**Asian Community in Maryland**  
**July 2004**

<b>County</b>	<b>Number of Asians</b>	<b>Percent of Statewide Total</b>	<b>Percent of County Population</b>
Allegany	439	0.2%	0.6%
Anne Arundel	13,388	5.2%	2.6%
Baltimore City	10,985	4.3%	1.7%
Baltimore	28,986	11.4%	3.7%
Calvert	856	0.3%	1.0%
Caroline	171	0.1%	0.6%
Carroll	1,951	0.8%	1.2%
Cecil	878	0.3%	0.9%
Charles	2,922	1.1%	2.2%
Dorchester	238	0.1%	0.8%
Frederick	5,373	2.1%	2.5%
Garrett	72	0.0%	0.2%
Harford	4,120	1.6%	1.7%
Howard	27,329	10.7%	10.2%
Kent	149	0.1%	0.8%
Montgomery	119,134	46.7%	12.9%
Prince George's	32,324	12.7%	3.8%
Queen Anne's	343	0.1%	0.8%
St. Mary's	1,865	0.7%	2.0%
Somerset	175	0.1%	0.7%
Talbot	211	0.1%	0.6%
Washington	1,404	0.6%	1.0%
Wicomico	1,547	0.6%	1.7%
Worcester	366	0.1%	0.7%
<b>Total</b>	<b>255,226</b>	<b>100.0%</b>	<b>4.6%</b>

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Maryland Department of Planning

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