

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 89

(Senator Frosh, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Health and Government Operations

State Government - Commemorative Days - Asian Lunar New Year Day

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

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

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.

Exhibit 1
Official Commemorative Days and Months in Maryland

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

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

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 324 (Delegate Lee, *et al.*) – Health and Government Operations.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 9, 2006
ncs/rhh

Analysis by: Hiram L. Burch Jr.

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510

Exhibit 2
Asian Community in Maryland
July 2004

County	Number of Asians	Percent of Statewide Total	Percent of County Population
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%
Total	255,226	100.0%	4.6%

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