

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2006 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Joint Resolution 9 (Senator Britt, *et al.*)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Rules and Executive Nominations

Coretta Scott King Day

This joint resolution requests the Governor annually to declare April 27 as Coretta Scott King Day.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Commemorating Coretta Scott King would not affect State finances.

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 U.S. armed forces.

The birthday of Martin Luther King, Jr. is observed as a federal and State holiday on the third Monday in January.

Background: Coretta Scott King, one of the most influential women leaders in the world and the wife of Martin Luther King, Jr., was born on April 27, 1927 in Marion, Alabama. Mrs. King devoted her life to social justice and equal opportunities for all people and became a leading participant in the American Civil Rights Movement.

After her husband's assassination in 1968, Mrs. King continued to advocate a philosophy of nonviolence. She devoted considerable time and effort in developing the Atlanta-based Martin Luther King, Jr. Center for Nonviolent Social Change, which serves as a living memorial to Dr. King's life and dream. Mrs. King also led the 15-year campaign to establish Dr. King's birthday as a national holiday.

Throughout her life, Mrs. King remained active in various women's organizations, including the National Organization for Women, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, and the United Church Women. She died on January 31, 2006.

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: None.

Information Source: The King Center, Department of Legislative Services

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