

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2008 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Revised

House Bill 957

(Delegate V. Clagett)

Health and Government Operations

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

**State Government - Commemorative Days - Maryland Charter Day and
Annapolis Charter Day**

This bill requires the Governor to proclaim June 20 as Maryland Charter Day and December 17 as Annapolis Charter Day.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2008.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Commemorating Maryland Charter Day and Annapolis Charter Day would not affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Four official commemorative days and two months are recognized in State law as shown in **Exhibit 1**. The Governor also 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.

Background: King Charles I granted Cecelius Calvert, the second Lord Baltimore, a charter for the Maryland Colony on June 20, 1632. On November 22, 1633, the Ark and

the Dove sailed for America with almost 200 settlers on board. On March 25, 1634, Lord Calvert and his group of English settlers landed on St. Clement's Island, marking the official origin of Maryland. This year (2008) will mark the three hundred seventy-sixth anniversary of the granting of the Maryland charter by King Charles I.

Maryland Day is celebrated on March 25 each year to commemorate the landing of the first English settlers.

On November 22, 1708, the residents of Annapolis received a Royal Charter from Queen Anne of Great Britain that granted them powers of self-government. On December 17, 1708, the General Assembly confirmed and codified Annapolis' chartered powers of self-government, making Annapolis the first incorporated municipality in Maryland. The three-hundredth anniversary of the granting of the city's original charter is 2008.

Exhibit 1

Official Commemorative Days and Months in Maryland

Asian Lunar New Year Day ¹	January
Black History Month	February
Women's History Month	March
John Hanson's Birthday ²	April 13
Law Day	May 1
Poetry Day	October 15

¹ Day designated as new year on the Asian lunar calendar.

² John Hanson served as the first president of the Continental Congress under the Articles of Confederation from 1781 to 1782.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: A similar bill, SB 5 of 2007 passed the Senate and was referred to the House Health and Government Operations Committee, which did not take action on the bill or its cross file, HB 24.

Cross File: SB 546 (Senators Forehand and Miller) – Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

Information Source: Department of Legislative Services

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Analysis by: Erik P. Timme

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