

# HOUSE BILL 84

P1

EMERGENCY BILL

9lr0433  
CF SB 248

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By: Delegates Stukes, Ali, Anderson, Barve, Benson, Branch, Braveboy, Burns, Cane, Carter, Conaway, DeBoy, Doory, Dumais, Elmore, Frush, Gaines, George, Gilchrist, Glenn, Griffith, Harrison, Haynes, Healey, Heller, Howard, Hubbard, Ivey, Kaiser, Kipke, Kirk, Kramer, Krebs, Krysiak, Levi, Levy, Malone, Mathias, McComas, McHale, McIntosh, Morhaim, Murphy, Myers, Nathan-Pulliam, Niemann, Norman, O'Donnell, Oaks, Olszewski, Pena-Melnyk, Proctor, Ramirez, Rice, Riley, Robinson, Rosenberg, Ross, Rudolph, Shank, Smigiel, Sophocleus, Stifler, Tarrant, F. Turner, V. Turner, Valderrama, Vallario, Vaughn, ~~and Walker~~ Walker, Hammen, Pendergrass, Bromwell, Costa, Donoghue, Elliott, Kach, Kullen, McDonough, Montgomery, Reznik, and Weldon

Introduced and read first time: January 19, 2009

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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Committee Report: Favorable with amendments

House action: Adopted

Read second time: March 22, 2009

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## CHAPTER \_\_\_\_\_

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Government – Commemorative Days – Negro Baseball League**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Governor to proclaim annually the second Saturday  
4 in May as Negro Baseball League Day; making this Act an emergency measure;  
5 and generally relating to commemorative days.

6 BY adding to

7 Article – State Government

8 Section 13–408

9 Annotated Code of Maryland

10 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2008 Supplement)

11 Preamble

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.

Underlining indicates amendments to bill.

~~Strike-out~~ indicates matter stricken from the bill by amendment or deleted from the law by amendment.



1 WHEREAS, African Americans played baseball throughout the 1800s and  
2 began playing on professional teams in the late 1800s; and

3 WHEREAS, African American baseball players were willing to travel almost  
4 anywhere and play a nearly unlimited amount of games for little compensation just to  
5 get the chance to play top-level baseball; and

6 WHEREAS, Professional Negro baseball leagues afforded the best African  
7 American players a chance to play baseball against each other; and

8 WHEREAS, Maryland hosted a number of professional African American  
9 teams, including the Snow Hill Nine, the Pocomoke City Giants, the Denton Blue Sox,  
10 and the Crisfield Giants of the Colored Baseball League of the Eastern Shore, other  
11 teams in Annapolis and on the Eastern Shore, the Mitchellville Tigers, the Rockville  
12 ACs, the Yokeley All-Stars, the Washington Black Sox, and Maryland's two most  
13 prominent teams, the Baltimore Black Sox and the Baltimore Elite (pronounced  
14 "EE-light") Giants; and

15 WHEREAS, In the 1940s, the Eastern Shore League, a thriving Class D  
16 professional baseball league that existed on Maryland's Eastern Shore, excluded  
17 African American players; and

18 WHEREAS, As a result, the Delmarva Peninsula had a Negro league of its own,  
19 and the only remaining baseball stadium on the Shore from that era and one of the  
20 few Negro league baseball stadiums remaining in the country still stands in Oakville,  
21 Maryland today; and

22 WHEREAS, The Shore also produced the first African American player to be  
23 admitted to the Major League Baseball Hall of Fame as well as the first black coach in  
24 Major League Baseball, William Julius "Judy" Johnson from Snow Hill; and

25 WHEREAS, The State also produced Leon Day, a flame-throwing right-handed  
26 pitcher with a no-windup delivery who grew up in southwest Baltimore, who watched  
27 and then played for the Baltimore Black Sox, and later helped lead the Baltimore Elite  
28 Giants to the Eastern Colored League pennant before his eventual induction into the  
29 Major League Baseball Hall of Fame; and

30 WHEREAS, Another Marylander, Ernest Burke from Havre De Grace, pitched  
31 and played outfield for the Baltimore Elite Giants after becoming one of the first  
32 African Americans to serve in the Marines during World War II; and

33 WHEREAS, Hubert "Bert" Van Wyke Simmons pitched and played outfield for  
34 the Baltimore Elite Giants before living in Woodlawn, taught in Baltimore City, and  
35 coached baseball at Dunbar and Northwestern High Schools; and

36 WHEREAS, The Baltimore Black Sox, charter members of the Eastern Colored  
37 League in 1923 that showcased a "million dollar infield" in 1929 because the press

1 thought they would have been paid that much if the players had been white, won the  
2 American Negro League Championship in 1929 before disbanding in 1934; and

3 WHEREAS, The Baltimore Elite Giants, whose players included Major League  
4 Baseball Hall of Fame catcher Roy Campanella, came to Baltimore in 1938 and won  
5 the Negro National Title in 1939 and 1949; and

6 WHEREAS, The Negro baseball leagues, thanks in part to their Maryland roots,  
7 afforded a place for the best black baseball players to play professionally, and helped  
8 baseball grow into the national pastime; and

9 WHEREAS, In 2009, at the 60, 70, and 80 year anniversaries of Baltimore's  
10 Negro League baseball championships, it is appropriate to give due recognition to the  
11 Negro baseball leagues, their players, and their fans; now, therefore,

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

14 **Article – State Government**

15 **13-408.**

16 **THE GOVERNOR ANNUALLY SHALL PROCLAIM THE SECOND SATURDAY IN**  
17 **MAY AS NEGRO BASEBALL LEAGUE DAY.**

18 ~~SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect~~  
19 ~~October 1, 2009.~~

20 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act is an emergency  
21 measure, is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public health or safety,  
22 has been passed by a ye and nay vote supported by three-fifths of all the members  
23 elected to each of the two Houses of the General Assembly, and shall take effect from  
24 the date it is enacted.

Approved:

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Governor.

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Speaker of the House of Delegates.

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President of the Senate.