HOUSE BILL 115

By: Delegate Ali Introduced and read first time: January 22, 2009 Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1	AN ACT	concerning
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2	Punjabi Cultural Awareness Day Act
$3 \\ 4 \\ 5$	FOR the purpose of requiring the Governor annually to proclaim a certain day as Punjabi Cultural Awareness Day; 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
$\begin{array}{c} 12\\ 13 \end{array}$	WHEREAS, Punjabi culture, the culture of the Punjab region of India and Pakistan, is one of the oldest and richest cultures in the world; and
$\begin{array}{c} 14 \\ 15 \end{array}$	WHEREAS, Ancient Punjabi culture is recognized for its high sophistication and architectural excellence; and
16 17 18	WHEREAS, Punjabi, the language spoken by inhabitants of the Punjab region and their diasporas, is spoken by more than 90,000,000 people, making Punjabi the 11th most widely spoken language in the world; and
$\begin{array}{c} 19\\ 20 \end{array}$	WHEREAS, While most of the Punjabi live in Pakistan or India, a significant number of Punjabi communities exist in almost 30 other countries, including the

- 21United States where nearly 500,000 Punjabi live; and
- WHEREAS, Due to the large number of Punjabi located around the world, 22modern Punjabi culture is changing other cultures as it strengthens and expands 23itself; and 24

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW. [Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



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WHEREAS, A significant number of Punjabi Marylanders celebrate their New
Year on April 13; now, therefore,

3 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF 4 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – State Government

6 **13–408.**

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7 THE GOVERNOR ANNUALLY SHALL PROCLAIM APRIL 13 AS PUNJABI 8 CULTURAL AWARENESS DAY.

9 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect10 October 1, 2009.