

HOUSE BILL 607

P1
HB 418/08 – HGO

9lr1977

By: **Delegates Burns, Benson, Braveboy, Cane, Carter, Conaway, Gaines, Harrison, Haynes, Holmes, Howard, Hubbard, Kirk, Nathan-Pulliam, Oaks, Pena-Melnyk, Proctor, Robinson, Stukes, V. Turner, and Walker**
Introduced and read first time: February 6, 2009
Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Government – Commemorative Months – Black History Months**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Governor to proclaim the months of January and
4 February to be Black History Months.

5 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,
6 Article – State Government
7 Section 13–502
8 Annotated Code of Maryland
9 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2008 Supplement)

10 Preamble

11 WHEREAS, February is the national Black History Month; and

12 WHEREAS, Many events that play an important role in Black History occurred
13 during the month of January that are of special significance to all Americans,
14 including the signing of the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863, the
15 passage of the 13th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution by Congress on January 31,
16 1865, which abolished slavery, and the ratification of the 24th Amendment of the U.S.
17 Constitution on January 23, 1964, which made it illegal to condition the right to vote
18 in federal elections on the payment of a poll tax or other tax and made it easier for
19 Black Americans to register to vote; and

20 WHEREAS, Many famous Black Americans were born during the month of
21 January, including Martin Luther King, Jr., George Washington Carver, Sojourner
22 Truth, and Nathaniel Turner; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WHEREAS, All Americans should learn about and recognize the achievements
2 of Black Americans, the important role that Black Americans played throughout the
3 entire history of the United States, and the scientific, literary, and social impact of
4 Black Americans on our world today; and

5 WHEREAS, The General Assembly believes that the months of January and
6 February should be commemorated as Black History Months in Maryland; now,
7 therefore,

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

10 **Article - State Government**

11 13-502.

12 (a) In recognition of the historical contributions that Black Americans have
13 made to the State, the Governor shall proclaim the [month] **MONTHS** of **JANUARY**
14 **AND** February each year as Black History [Month] **MONTHS**.

15 (b) The proclamation shall urge educational and cultural organizations to
16 observe Black History [Month] **MONTHS** properly with appropriate programs,
17 ceremonies, and activities.

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