

SENATE BILL 934

P1, J1

9lr2985
CF HB 1062

By: **Senator Pugh**

Introduced and read first time: February 16, 2009

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Government – Commemorative Day – Health Improvement and Disease**
3 **Prevention Day**

4 FOR the purpose of requiring the Governor to proclaim annually a certain day of each
5 year as Health Improvement and Disease Prevention Day; requiring the
6 proclamation to urge citizens of the State to address certain health issues; and
7 generally relating to Health Improvement and Disease Prevention Day.

8 BY adding to

9 Article – State Government
10 Section 13–408
11 Annotated Code of Maryland
12 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2008 Supplement)

13 Preamble

14 WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that
15 health care costs directly associated with inactivity were \$76.7 billion in 2000; and

16 WHEREAS, The federal Medical Expenditure Panel Survey estimates that, in
17 2003, it cost \$277 billion to treat cancer, heart disease, hypertension, mental
18 disorders, diabetes, pulmonary conditions, and stroke in noninstitutionalized
19 Americans; and

20 WHEREAS, The Johns Hopkins University Partnership for Solutions in their
21 2004 update to the study “Chronic Conditions: Making the Case for Ongoing Care”
22 found that more than half of all Americans suffer from one or more chronic diseases;
23 and

24 WHEREAS, The New England Journal of Medicine in the 2007 article
25 “Explaining the Decrease in Deaths from Coronary Disease” reported that disease

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 rates have risen dramatically, threatening to cancel out health care gains made over
2 the past decades; and

3 WHEREAS, The Milken Institute 2007 study entitled “An Unhealthy America:
4 The Economic Burden of Chronic Disease” found Maryland to be the 23rd least
5 healthy state, as judged by its State Chronic Disease Index; and

6 WHEREAS, The recent study “Cost Effectiveness of Community–Based
7 Physical Activity Interventions” published in the Journal of Preventive Medicine in
8 December of 2008 found that there is clear evidence to link physical inactivity with
9 increased risk of many chronic diseases, including coronary heart disease, ischemic
10 stroke, type 2 diabetes, breast cancer, and colorectal cancer; and

11 WHEREAS, That same study found that the negative health effects of physical
12 inactivity are paralleled by staggering economic consequences resulting in the annual
13 cost directly attributable to inactivity in the U.S. to be an estimated \$24 billion to \$76
14 billion, or 2.4% to 5% of national health care expenditures; and

15 WHEREAS, The Trust for America’s Health in its report “Prevention for a
16 Healthier America” found that an investment of \$10 per person per year in proven
17 community–based programs to increase physical activity, improve nutrition, and
18 prevent smoking could save the country more than \$16 billion annually; and

19 WHEREAS, That same study found that the potential annual net savings and
20 return on investment for Maryland with 5 years of spending \$10 per capita in disease
21 prevention programs would yield \$332 million in savings or a return on investment of
22 6 to 1; now, therefore,

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

25 **Article – State Government**

26 **13–408.**

27 **(A) THE GOVERNOR ANNUALLY SHALL PROCLAIM THE SECOND**
28 **WEDNESDAY IN MAY OF EACH YEAR AS HEALTH IMPROVEMENT AND DISEASE**
29 **PREVENTION DAY.**

30 **(B) THE PROCLAMATION SHALL URGE CITIZENS OF THE STATE TO:**

31 **(1) COMBAT CHILDHOOD OBESITY;**

32 **(2) REDUCE SMOKING AND TOBACCO USE;**

33 **(3) PROMOTE SENIOR FITNESS AND WELLNESS;**

1 **(4) PROMOTE ADULT PHYSICAL ACTIVITY; AND**

2 **(5) PROMOTE HEALTHY WEIGHT LOSS.**

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