

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 883 (Senator Dyson, *et al.*)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

State Government - Commemorative Days - Firemen and Rescue Workers
Memorial Service

This bill requires the memorial service commemorating firemen and rescue workers organized by the Maryland Fire-Rescue Services Memorial Foundation be held annually on the first Sunday in June at the Maryland Fire-Rescue Services Memorial in the City of Annapolis.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2009.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Specifying the date and place of the memorial service does not affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Six 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.

Exhibit 1
Official Commemorative Days and Months in Maryland

Asian Lunar New Year Day ¹	January/February
Black History Month	February
Women's History Month	March
John Hanson's Birthday ²	April 13
Law Day	May 1
Maryland Charter Day	June 20
Poetry Day	October 15
Annapolis Charter Day	December 17

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

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

Background: In 1997, the Maryland Fire-Rescue Services Memorial Foundation began planning for a memorial to honor the States' more than 340 firefighters and emergency medical services workers who died in the line of duty. A total of \$475,000 in State grants was provided for the memorial through the Maryland Consolidated Capitol Bond Loans (M.C.C.B.L.) of 2004, 2005, and 2008. After years of planning, design, and construction, the memorial was dedicated on June 11, 2006. Each year since, a memorial service has been held at the memorial in early June. The next annual memorial service is planned for Sunday, June 7, 2009.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 434 (Delegate Malone, *et al.*) - Health and Government Operations.

Information Source(s): Maryland Fire-Rescue Services Memorial Foundation, City of Annapolis, Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems, Governor's Office, Department of State Police, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 12, 2009
ncs/hlb

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