

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2009 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 934 (Senator Pugh)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

State Government - Commemorative Day - Health Improvement and Disease
Prevention Day

This bill requires the Governor to annually proclaim the second Wednesday in May of each year as Health Improvement and Disease Prevention Day. The proclamation must urge citizens of the State to combat childhood obesity, reduce smoking and tobacco use, promote senior fitness and wellness, promote adult physical activity, and promote healthy weight loss.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Commemorating Health Improvement and Disease Prevention Day will not affect government 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: A number of State programs, commissions, and councils address health issues and related behaviors. Some examples include the State Advisory Council on Physical Fitness, the Tobacco Use Prevention and Cessation Program, the Maryland Commission for Men's Health, and the Committee on Childhood Obesity.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 1062 (Delegate Cardin, *et al.*) - Health and Government Operations.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Services

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ncs/hlb

Analysis by: Jennifer B. Chasse

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510