

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2010 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

Senate Joint Resolution 3 (Senator Stone, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Health and Government Operations

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**Maryland American Legion Day**

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This joint resolution indicates that the Maryland General Assembly supports the goals and ideals of American Legion Day and calls on the people of Maryland to observe American Legion Day annually on September 16 through appropriate programs and activities.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Commemorating American Legion Day will not affect State finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** The U.S. House of Representatives and the Senate adopted resolutions designating September 16, 2009, as American Legion Day.

Seven 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.

**Background:** The American Legion was chartered and incorporated by Congress on September 16, 1919, as a patriotic veterans organization. Presently, the American Legion

has 2.6 million members and 14,000 posts worldwide. There are nearly 81,000 members in 157 American Legion Posts throughout Maryland. For each given post there are anywhere from 15 to 4,700 members. The American Legion is the largest veterans service organization in the nation and has remained active at the local, state, and national level.

In 1921, the American Legion's lobbying efforts played a vital role in the creation of the U.S. Veterans Bureau, forerunner of the Veterans Administration. Today, the organization continues to lobby for issues that affect the nation's veterans such as medical, educational, and disability benefits. Eventually, the American Legion expanded their scope to include the nation's youth. In 1954, the American Legion created their Child Welfare Foundation. Since its conception, the foundation has awarded over \$10 million to youth organizations as well as projects that benefit children. In addition, the American Legion offers a number of scholarship opportunities for the youth of America.

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**Exhibit 1**  
**Official Commemorative Days and Months in Maryland**

Asian Lunar New Year Day <sup>1</sup>	January/February
Black History Month	February
Women's History Month	March
John Hanson's Birthday <sup>2</sup>	April 13
Law Day	May 1
Negro Baseball League Day <sup>3</sup>	May
Maryland Charter Day	June 20
Poetry Day	October 15
Annapolis Charter Day	December 17

<sup>1</sup>Day designated as new year on the Asian lunar calendar.

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

<sup>3</sup>Negro Baseball League Day is held the second Saturday of May.

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**Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** The American Legion, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 14, 2010  
ncs/hlb

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