

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

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**

House Bill 34

(Delegate Waldstreicher, *et al.*)

Health and Government Operations

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**State Government - Commemorative Month - Hispanic Heritage Month**

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This bill requires the Governor to proclaim the month from September 15 to October 15 as Hispanic Heritage Month in recognition of the contributions Hispanic Americans have made to the State. Educational and cultural organizations are urged to observe this month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2010.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Commemorating Hispanic Heritage Month will not affect State finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** 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:** In 1968, under President Lyndon Johnson, Hispanic Heritage Week was created, and later expanded by President Ronald Regan in 1988 to cover the 30-day period now known as National Hispanic Heritage Month. From September 15 to

October 15 of each year, Americans observe this commemorative month by celebrating the histories, cultures, and contributions of American citizens whose ancestors came from Spain, Mexico, the Caribbean, Central America, and South America.

The day of September 15 is significant within the Hispanic community because it is the anniversary of independence for numerous Latin American countries including Costa Rica, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Nicaragua. Mexico and Chile also celebrate their independence during Hispanic Heritage Month.

Hispanic Americans are the fastest growing community in Maryland, accounting for 43.9% of the State's population growth in the last eight years. During this period, the State's Hispanic population increased by 64.9%, compared to a 1.5% decrease for white residents, 9.9% increase for African Americans, and 32.0% increase for Asians. The strong growth in the Hispanic population in recent years continues to transform Maryland's communities. In 2008, Hispanics represented 6.7% of the State's population, an increase from 4.3% in 2000. The Hispanic presence in Maryland remains strongest in Montgomery and Prince George's counties, where Hispanics account for 15% and 13% of the county's population, respectively. Other jurisdictions experiencing a significant increase in their Hispanic population include Frederick, Caroline, Anne Arundel, and Howard counties; with the Hispanic share of county population increasing by at least two percentage points since 2000. **Exhibits 2** and **3** provide population statistics for the State's Hispanic community.

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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):** Library of Congress, U.S. Census Bureau, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - January 18, 2010

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**Exhibit 2**  
**Hispanic Community in Maryland**

<b>County</b>	<b>Hispanic Population</b>	<b>Total Population</b>	<b>Percent Hispanic</b>	<b>Ranking by Percent Hispanic</b>		<b>Ranking by Share of State Total</b>	
Allegany	770	72,238	1.1%	1. Montgomery	14.8%	1. Montgomery	37.4%
Anne Arundel	23,037	512,790	4.5%	2. Prince George's	12.8%	2. Prince George's	28.0%
Baltimore City	17,014	636,919	2.7%	3. Frederick	6.0%	3. Baltimore	6.5%
Baltimore	24,528	785,618	3.1%	4. Howard	5.0%	4. Anne Arundel	6.1%
Calvert	2,237	88,698	2.5%	5. Caroline	4.8%	5. Baltimore City	4.5%
Caroline	1,602	33,138	4.8%	6. Anne Arundel	4.5%	6. Howard	3.6%
Carroll	3,194	169,353	1.9%	7. Charles	3.9%	7. Frederick	3.6%
Cecil	2,363	99,926	2.4%	8. Kent	3.6%	8. Harford	1.8%
Charles	5,484	140,764	3.9%	9. Wicomico	3.4%	9. Charles	1.5%
Dorchester	712	31,998	2.2%	10. Talbot	3.2%	10. Washington	1.0%
Frederick	13,641	225,721	6.0%	11. Baltimore	3.1%	11. Wicomico	0.9%
Garrett	205	29,698	0.7%	12. St. Mary's	2.9%	12. Carroll	0.8%
Harford	6,586	240,351	2.7%	13. Harford	2.7%	13. St. Mary's	0.8%
Howard	13,659	274,995	5.0%	14. Washington	2.7%	14. Cecil	0.6%
Kent	723	20,151	3.6%	15. Baltimore City	2.7%	15. Calvert	0.6%
Montgomery	140,657	950,680	14.8%	16. Calvert	2.5%	16. Caroline	0.4%
Prince George's	105,325	820,852	12.8%	17. Worcester	2.4%	17. Worcester	0.3%
Queen Anne's	976	47,091	2.1%	18. Somerset	2.4%	18. Talbot	0.3%
St. Mary's	2,970	101,578	2.9%	19. Cecil	2.4%	19. Queen Anne's	0.3%
Somerset	625	26,119	2.4%	20. Dorchester	2.2%	20. Allegany	0.2%
Talbot	1,155	36,215	3.2%	21. Queen Anne's	2.1%	21. Kent	0.2%
Washington	3,925	145,384	2.7%	22. Carroll	1.9%	22. Dorchester	0.2%
Wicomico	3,244	94,046	3.4%	23. Allegany	1.1%	23. Somerset	0.2%
Worcester	1,198	49,274	2.4%	24. Garrett	0.7%	24. Garrett	0.1%
<b>Maryland</b>	<b>375,830</b>	<b>5,633,597</b>	<b>6.7%</b>				

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, Maryland Department of Planning – July 1, 2008

**Exhibit 3**  
**Growth in Hispanic Community by County**

<b>County</b>	<b>2000</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>Population Change</b>	<b>Percent Change</b>	<b>Highest to Lowest Population Change</b>		<b>Highest to Lowest Percent Change</b>	
Allegany	571	770	199	34.9%	1. Prince George's	48,268	1. Frederick	192.5%
Anne Arundel	12,902	23,037	10,135	78.6%	2. Montgomery	40,053	2. Washington	150.0%
Baltimore City	11,061	17,014	5,953	53.8%	3. Baltimore	10,754	3. Queen Anne's	119.8%
Baltimore	13,774	24,528	10,754	78.1%	4. Anne Arundel	10,135	4. Carroll	114.5%
Calvert	1,135	2,237	1,102	97.1%	5. Frederick	8,977	5. Caroline	103.0%
Caroline	789	1,602	813	103.0%	6. Howard	6,169	6. Charles	101.5%
Carroll	1,489	3,194	1,705	114.5%	7. Baltimore City	5,953	7. Worcester	101.0%
Cecil	1,306	2,363	1,057	80.9%	8. Charles	2,762	8. Calvert	97.1%
Charles	2,722	5,484	2,762	101.5%	9. Harford	2,417	9. Talbot	87.8%
Dorchester	385	712	327	84.9%	10. Washington	2,355	10. Somerset	87.1%
Frederick	4,664	13,641	8,977	192.5%	11. Carroll	1,705	11. Dorchester	84.9%
Garrett	131	205	74	56.5%	12. Wicomico	1,402	12. Prince George's	84.6%
Harford	4,169	6,586	2,417	58.0%	13. St. Mary's	1,250	13. Howard	82.4%
Howard	7,490	13,659	6,169	82.4%	14. Calvert	1,102	14. Cecil	80.9%
Kent	546	723	177	32.4%	15. Cecil	1,057	15. Anne Arundel	78.6%
Montgomery	100,604	140,657	40,053	39.8%	16. Caroline	813	16. Baltimore	78.1%
Prince George's	57,057	105,325	48,268	84.6%	17. Worcester	602	17. Wicomico	76.1%
Queen Anne's	444	976	532	119.8%	18. Talbot	540	18. St. Mary's	72.7%
St. Mary's	1,720	2,970	1,250	72.7%	19. Queen Anne's	532	19. Harford	58.0%
Somerset	334	625	291	87.1%	20. Dorchester	327	20. Garrett	56.5%
Talbot	615	1,155	540	87.8%	21. Somerset	291	21. Baltimore City	53.8%
Washington	1,570	3,925	2,355	150.0%	22. Allegany	199	22. Montgomery	39.8%
Wicomico	1,842	3,244	1,402	76.1%	23. Kent	177	23. Allegany	34.9%
Worcester	596	1,198	602	101.0%	24. Garrett	74	24. Kent	32.4%
<b>Maryland</b>	<b>227,916</b>	<b>375,830</b>	<b>147,914</b>	<b>64.9%</b>				

Source: U.S. Census Bureau