

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2010 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 715

(Senator Dyson, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Health and Government Operations

State Government - Commemorative Days - Fire, Rescue, and Emergency
Services Workers

This bill requires the Governor to annually proclaim the first Sunday in June as the day to honor the fire, rescue and emergency services workers of the State who made the ultimate sacrifice in the performance of their duties and order that the State flag be flown at half-staff. Memorial plaques containing the names of the fire, rescue, and emergency services workers who made the ultimate sacrificed must be annually placed by the Maryland Fire-Rescue Services Memorial Foundation on the Maryland Fire-Rescue Services Memorial in the City of Annapolis.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2010.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Commemorating Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Services Day will not affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

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 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 memorial service is scheduled for June 6, 2010.

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
Negro Baseball League Day ³	May
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.

³Negro Baseball League Day is held the second Saturday of May.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: SB 883 of 2009 passed the Senate, but no action was taken in the House. Its cross file, HB 434, received an unfavorable report from the House Health and Government Operations Committee.

Cross File: HB 910 (Delegate Malone, *et al.*) - Health and Government Operations.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 1, 2010
ncs/hlb

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