

HB 142

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2011 Session

## FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 142 (Delegate Aumann, *et al.*)  
Health and Government Operations

## **State Government - Commemorative Month - German-American Heritage Month**

This bill requires the Governor to annually proclaim the month of October as German-American Heritage Month and to urge educational and cultural organizations to observe German-American Heritage Month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2011.

## **Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** Commemorating German-American Heritage Month does not affect governmental finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

### **Small Business Effect: None.**

## Analysis

**Current Law:** Eight official commemorative days and three 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:** German-Americans comprise the largest self-reported ancestral group in the State, as well as in the nation. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 14.4% of

Marylanders were of German-American descent. Both the western and northern parts of the State have large German-American populations. German-Americans have been highly influential in American history and society, and a number of German-American celebrations are held annually in major cities across the United States.

German-American Day, observed annually on October 6, was first celebrated in the nineteenth century. The commemoration later died out as a result of anti-German sentiment that prevailed in the first half of the twentieth century but was revived in 1983, when President Ronald Reagan proclaimed October 6 as German-American Day to celebrate three centuries of German-American immigration and culture. In 1987, President Regan signed the commemoration into law.

---

### **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
Negro Baseball League Day <sup>3</sup>	May
Law Day	May 1
Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Services Workers Day <sup>4</sup>	June
Maryland Charter Day	June 20
Hispanic Heritage Month <sup>5</sup>	September/October
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>Commemorated on the second Saturday in May.

<sup>4</sup>Commemorated on the first Sunday in June.

<sup>5</sup>Commemorated from September 15 to October 15.

---

---

## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** SB 121 (Senator Klausmeier, *et al.*) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

**Information Source(s):** U.S. Census Bureau (2005-2009 American Community Survey), Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 2, 2011  
ncs/hlb

---

Analysis by: Jennifer A. Ellick

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