

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2011 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 157 (Delegate B. Robinson, *et al.*)
Health and Government Operations

State Government - Commemorative Days - Maryland Women's History Day

This bill requires the Governor to annually proclaim March 8 as Maryland Women's History Day.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Commemorating Maryland Women's History Day does not affect governmental finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Eight official commemorative days and three months – including Women's History Month, which is commemorated annually in March – 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: Maryland women have been broadly influential throughout the State's history as shown in **Exhibit 2**. In 1985, the Maryland's Women Hall of Fame was established by the Maryland Commission for Women and the Women Legislators of Maryland to honor Maryland women who have made unique and lasting contributions to the economic, political, cultural, and social life of the State.

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
Negro Baseball League Day ³	May
Law Day	May 1
Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Services Workers Day ⁴	June
Maryland Charter Day	June 20
Hispanic Heritage Month ⁵	September/October
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.

³Commemorated on the second Saturday in May.

⁴Commemorated on the first Sunday in June.

⁵Commemorated from September 15 to October 15.

Exhibit 2
Selected Notable Women in Maryland History

Clara Barton (1821-1912)	Organizer of the American Red Cross
Margaret Brent (1601-1671)	Maryland's first female attorney
Anna Ella Carroll (1815-1894)	Unrecognized member of Lincoln's cabinet
Rachel Carson (1907-1964)	Environmentalist and biologist
Bessie Olive Cole (1883-1971)	Pioneering pharmacist and professor
Billie Holiday (1915-1959)	Renowned jazz and blues singer
Lillie Carroll Jackson (1889-1975)	Leading civil rights activist
St. Elizabeth Ann Seton (1774-1821)	First native-born American to be canonized
Henrietta Szold (1860-1945)	Founder of adult education for immigrants
Harriet Tubman (1820-1913)	Abolitionist and humanitarian

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): *Maryland Women's Heritage Center*, Department of Legislative Services

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mc/hlb

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