

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2011 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 939 (Delegate Haynes, *et al.*)
Health and Government Operations Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

State Government - Commemorative Days - Thurgood Marshall Day

This bill requires the Governor to annually proclaim July 2 as Thurgood Marshall Day and to urge educational and cultural organizations to observe Thurgood Marshall Day properly.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2011.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Commemorating Thurgood Marshall Day 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: Thurgood Marshall was born in Baltimore in 1908 and began working for the Baltimore branch of the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People upon his graduation from Howard University Law School in 1933. His first major case

was *Murray v. Pearson* (1935), which prohibited the University of Maryland School of Law (which, in 1930, had rejected Marshall’s application on the basis of race) from rejecting applicants based on race.

Marshall became one of the most prominent civil rights attorneys in the nation. He eventually argued 32 cases before the Supreme Court and won 29 of them, including *Shelley v. Kraemer* (1948) – which made racial covenants in real estate unenforceable – and *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* (1954). Marshall was appointed to the Court of Appeals of the Second Circuit in 1961, and became the United States Solicitor General in 1965. In 1967, Marshall became the first African American justice to serve on the United States Supreme Court; he served for 24 years before his retirement. Marshall died in 1993.

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.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 18, 2011
ncs/hlb

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