

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2012 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 665 (Delegate Arora, *et al.*)
Health and Government Operations

Health and State Government - Falls by Senior Citizens - Awareness and
Prevention (Senior Falls Prevention Act)

This bill requires the Governor to annually proclaim the week that begins on the first Sunday after the fall equinox as Fall Prevention Awareness Week. The bill also requires the Secretary of Aging and the Secretary of Health and Mental Hygiene to, before January 1, 2013, develop and submit to the General Assembly a statewide protocol for home safety inspections for senior citizens who are discharged from the hospital following a fall (with the aim of reducing fall-related readmissions).

The bill takes effect July 1, 2012.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Commemorating Fall Prevention Awareness Week does not affect State finances. The required protocol can be developed with existing resources.

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: U.S. Senate Resolution 284 of 2011 designated September 23, 2011, as National Falls Prevention Awareness Day to promote and increase public awareness regarding the prevention and reduction of falls among older adults. According to the National Council on Aging, 43 states (including Maryland) participated in National Falls Prevention Awareness Day in 2011.

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): National Council on Aging, Department of Health and Mental Hygiene, Maryland Department of Aging, Department of Legislative Services

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ncs/mwc

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