

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2012 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 766

(Delegate Vallario, *et al.*)

Health and Government Operations

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

State Government - Commemorative Days - Crime Victims and Advocates

This bill requires the Governor to annually proclaim April 3 as Crime Victim and Advocate Commemorative Day to honor the individuals in the State who have become crime victims and the advocates who serve those victims. The Governor must also take appropriate steps to publicize Crime Victim and Advocate Commemorative Day.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Commemorating Crime Victim and Advocate Day and publicizing the event does not materially affect State 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: Maryland crime victim services are coordinated through the Governor's Office of Crime Control and Prevention. The Maryland General Assembly created the State Board of Victim Services in 1988 to ensure that all crime victims are treated with

dignity, respect, and compassion during all phases of the criminal justice process. In 1991, the General Assembly created the Maryland Victims of Crime Fund to provide funding support for victim services. Money for this fund is generated through fees collected by the courts from defendants, and that money is subsequently used to award grants to help crime victims.

National Crime Victims' Rights Week has been celebrated and observed at the federal level during April since 1981. The next National Crime Victims' Rights Week will be observed April 22-28, 2012.

On April 3, 1982, Stephanie Roper, a Frostburg State University student, was kidnapped, raped, tortured, and murdered, after her car became disabled during a weekend visit with her family. In October 1982, friends and neighbors of Stephanie incorporated the Stephanie Roper Committee and Foundation, Inc. In the fall of 2002, the name was changed to the Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, Inc. a statewide nonprofit organization dedicated to service the interests of crime victims in Maryland.

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.

Crime Rates in Maryland

Maryland's crime rates are among the highest in the nation. According to the FBI's *Uniform Crime Report*, when the District of Columbia is included in the rankings, in 2010, Maryland had the ninth highest violent crime rate, the third highest murder rate, and the fourth highest robbery rate. The FBI recorded 430 murders in Maryland compared to 369 in Virginia, even though Virginia has over 2.2 million more residents. The District of Columbia and Louisiana had the nation's highest murder rates while Vermont and New Hampshire had the lowest. **Exhibit 2** compares the crime rates in Maryland with neighboring Virginia for calendar 2010.

Among the State's 24 subdivisions, Baltimore City had the highest crime rate in 2010, followed closely by Worcester, Prince George's, and Wicomico counties. Carroll, Frederick, Garrett, and Kent counties had the lowest crime rates. Crime rate statistics are from the *Uniform Crime Report* for 2010 (**Exhibit 3**).

Exhibit 2 **Comparison of Crimes Rates in 2010¹**

	<u>Maryland</u>		<u>Virginia</u>	
Violent Crime	547.7	9 th	213.6	46 th
Murder	7.4	3 rd	4.6	23 rd
Rape	21.3	43 rd	19.1	47 th
Robbery	191.5	4 th	70.7	35 th
Assault ²	327.5	13 th	119.1	48 th
Burglary	632.5	25 th	382.8	47 th
Vehicle Theft	312.6	8 th	131.8	40 th

¹Rate is per 100,000 inhabitants.

²Aggravated assaults.

Source: FBI Uniform Crime Report, 2010

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SB 572 (Senator Rosapepe) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

Information Source(s): U.S. Office of Justice Programs, Maryland Crime Victims' Resource Center, *Southern Maryland News*, Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 26, 2012
ncs/hlb

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Exhibit 3
Crime Rates for Maryland Counties

County	Crime Rates Per 100,000 Residents			Crime Rates % of State Average		Murder Count		Robbery Count		Vehicle Theft Count	
	CY 2009	CY 2010	% Change	CY 2009	CY 2010	CY 2009	CY 2010	CY 2009	CY 2010	CY 2009	CY 2010
Allegany	3,595.5	3,957.6	10.1%	94.9%	111.5%	1	4	38	48	49	49
Anne Arundel	3,840.2	3,557.5	-7.4%	101.4%	100.2%	15	19	746	661	1,134	1,236
Baltimore City	6,151.3	5,945.2	-3.4%	162.4%	167.5%	240	223	3,726	3,361	4,632	4,421
Baltimore	3,890.9	3,569.5	-8.3%	102.7%	100.6%	31	20	1,471	1,341	2,443	1,880
Calvert	2,322.8	2,438.7	5.0%	61.3%	68.7%	0	1	28	33	104	114
Caroline	3,392.4	3,376.8	-0.5%	89.5%	95.1%	1	1	21	25	42	50
Carroll	1,809.1	1,768.9	-2.2%	47.8%	49.8%	2	4	47	40	102	104
Cecil	4,321.5	3,981.0	-7.9%	114.1%	112.2%	2	6	155	152	248	195
Charles	3,082.0	3,044.4	-1.2%	81.4%	85.8%	7	2	185	171	272	290
Dorchester	3,536.8	3,669.4	3.7%	93.4%	103.4%	0	1	28	54	26	38
Frederick	2,056.4	2,018.8	-1.8%	54.3%	56.9%	9	3	179	205	175	178
Garrett	1,924.2	1,791.5	-6.9%	50.8%	50.5%	0	1	1	2	14	26
Harford	2,223.9	2,173.8	-2.3%	58.7%	61.2%	4	6	228	196	251	236
Howard	2,781.8	2,568.6	-7.7%	73.4%	72.4%	2	5	262	222	393	389
Kent	2,083.4	2,047.5	-1.7%	55.0%	57.7%	1	0	14	13	13	21
Montgomery	2,721.7	2,293.7	-15.7%	71.8%	64.6%	13	16	1,062	975	1,824	1,530
Prince George's	5,413.8	5,112.2	-5.6%	142.9%	144.0%	96	91	3,324	3,126	7,266	6,700
Queen Anne's	2,150.2	2,247.9	4.5%	56.8%	63.3%	0	2	9	8	30	28
St. Mary's	2,274.9	2,435.2	7.0%	60.0%	68.6%	0	4	45	40	115	103
Somerset	3,033.1	2,496.6	-17.7%	80.1%	70.3%	1	1	25	17	12	19
Talbot	2,896.7	2,609.1	-9.9%	76.5%	73.5%	1	2	23	18	19	22
Washington	2,207.0	2,344.0	6.2%	58.3%	66.0%	2	0	96	115	182	191
Wicomico	5,435.4	4,800.7	-11.7%	143.5%	135.3%	6	10	249	183	169	139
Worcester	5,160.2	5,271.4	2.2%	136.2%	148.5%	0	4	42	45	71	48
Maryland	3,788.4	3,549.2	-6.3%	100.0%	100.0%	440	426	12,007	11,053	19,619	18,029

Source: *Uniform Crime Report*, Maryland State Police