

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2014 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 651 (Senator Getty, *et al.*)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Health and Government Operations

General Provisions - Commemorative Days - K9 Veterans Day

This bill requires the Governor to annually proclaim March 13 as K9 Veterans Day.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Commemorating K9 Veterans Day does not affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Eleven official commemorative days and five 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: As noted in the preamble, thousands of dogs have served with honor, dignity, and valor through the history of our country's birth and growth and have been employed by the U.S. military from World War I to present conflicts. The official K9 Corps was created on March 13, 1942. In addition, many federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies have established K9 Corps units where dogs are trained for specialized activities such as bomb detection, drug interdiction, search and rescue, and border patrol. In 2011, New Jersey designated March 13 as K9 Veterans Day.

Exhibit 1
Official Commemorative Days and Months in Maryland

Asian Lunar New Year Day ¹	January/February
Black History Month	February
Irish American Heritage Month	March
Women's History Month	March
Crime Victim and Advocate Day	April 3
John Hanson's Birthday ²	April 13
Maryland Centenarians Day ³	May
Negro Baseball League Day ⁴	May
Law Day	May 1
Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Services Workers Day ⁵	June
Maryland Charter Day	June 20
Hispanic Heritage Month ⁶	September/October
German-American Heritage Month	October
Poetry Day	October 15
Maryland Emancipation Day	November 1
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 Thursday in May.

⁴Commemorated on the second Saturday in May.

⁵Commemorated on the first Sunday in June.

⁶Commemorated from September 15 to October 15.

Source: Department of Legislative Services

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - February 25, 2014
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