

Department of Legislative Services  
2015 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 260 (Senator Jennings)  
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

---

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:** Twelve official commemorative days and six 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 <sup>1</sup>	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 <sup>2</sup>	April 13
Maryland Centenarians Day <sup>3</sup>	May
Negro Baseball League Day <sup>4</sup>	May
Law Day	May 1
Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Services Workers Day <sup>5</sup>	June
Juneteenth National Freedom Day	June 19
Maryland Charter Day	June 20
Hispanic Heritage Month <sup>6</sup>	September/October
German-American Heritage Month	October
Poetry Day	October 15
American Indian Heritage Month	November
Maryland Emancipation Day	November 1
Annapolis Charter Day	December 17

<sup>1</sup>Day designated as new year on the Asian lunar calendar.

<sup>2</sup>John Hanson served as the first president of the Continental Congress under the Articles of Confederation from 1781 to 1782.

<sup>3</sup>Commemorated on the second Thursday in May.

<sup>4</sup>Commemorated on the second Saturday in May.

<sup>5</sup>Commemorated on the first Sunday in June.

<sup>6</sup>Commemorated from September 15 to October 15.

Source: Department of Legislative Services

---

**Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** SB 651 of 2014 passed the Senate and received a hearing in the House Health and Government Operations Committee, but no further action was taken.

**Cross File:** None.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 12, 2015  
mar/hlb

---

Analysis by: Caroline L. Boice

Direct Inquiries to:

(410) 946-5510

(301) 970-5510