

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2015 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Senate Bill 889 (Senator Conway, *et al.*)  
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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General Provisions - Commemorative Days - Thurgood Marshall Day

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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, 2015.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Commemorating Thurgood Marshall Day does not affect governmental finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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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:** Thurgood Marshall was born in Baltimore on July 2, 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 U.S. Solicitor General in 1965. In 1967, Marshall became the first African American justice to serve on the U.S. Supreme Court; he served for 24 years before his retirement. Marshall died in 1993.

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**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

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## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** HB 939 of 2011 passed the House but received an unfavorable report from the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee.

**Cross File:** HB 340 (Delegate Haynes, *et al.*) - Health and Government Operations.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 9, 2015

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