

Department of Legislative Services
2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

Enrolled

Senate Bill 620

(Senator Middleton, *et al.*)

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Health and Government Operations

Commemorative Weeks - Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week

This bill requires the Governor to annually proclaim the second week in June as Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week. The proclamation must urge educational and environmental organizations to observe Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week properly with appropriate events, activities, and programs designed to increase awareness of the importance of the Chesapeake Bay to the State, the region, and the United States.

The bill takes effect June 1, 2016.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Urging educational and environmental organizations to observe Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week 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.

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
Juneteenth National Freedom Day	June 19
Maryland Charter Day	June 20
Hispanic Heritage Month ⁶	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

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

Background: The Chesapeake Bay is the largest estuary in the United States, spanning six states and the District of Columbia. Fed by 50 major tributaries, the bay contains more than 15 trillion gallons of water and produces more than 500 million pounds of seafood harvest annually, including crabs, oysters, and rockfish. The Chesapeake Bay area is home to more than 17 million people, 3,600 species of plants and animals, and two of the five major shipping ports in the North Atlantic: Baltimore and Hampton Roads. The bay provides important economic resources, as well as recreational and educational experiences both in and around the water.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: HB 1319 (Delegate Frush, *et al.*) - Health and Government Operations.

Information Source(s): Chesapeake Bay Foundation, Chesapeake Bay Program,
Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 2, 2016
min/lgc

Analysis by: Jennifer B. Chasse

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510