

Department of Legislative Services  
2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
First Reader

Senate Bill 353 (Senator Lee, *et al.*)  
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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**General Provisions - Commemorative Days - Fred Korematsu Day**

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This bill requires the Governor to annually proclaim January 30 as Fred Korematsu Day. The proclamation must urge educational and cultural organizations to observe Fred Korematsu Day properly with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. Urging educational and cultural organizations to observe Fred Korematsu Day does not affect State 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.

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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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**Background:** In 1942, Fred Korematsu was arrested and convicted for defying Executive Order 9066, which authorized the removal of Japanese Americans from their homes and placement into internment camps during World War II. Mr. Korematsu took his case to the U.S. Supreme Court, which upheld his conviction. Nearly 40 years later, a federal court overturned his conviction after a historian discovered that the government intentionally concealed evidence that Japanese Americans did not pose a military threat. Mr. Korematsu continued to be an outspoken civil rights activist, seeking redress for interned Japanese

Americans. In 1998, Mr. Korematsu received the Presidential Medal of Freedom, the nation's highest civilian honor, from President Clinton.

The U.S. Commission on Civil Rights has recommended that Fred Korematsu Day be established as a national holiday. To date, six states (California, Georgia, Hawaii, Illinois, Utah, and Virginia), officially commemorate January 30 in honor of Fred Korematsu.

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### **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** HB 1174 (Delegate Platt, *et al.*) - Health and Government Operations.

**Information Source(s):** Fred T. Korematsu Institute, U.S. Commission on Civil Rights, Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 2, 2016  
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