

Department of Legislative Services  
2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
First Reader

Senate Bill 594 (Senator Mathias, *et al.*)  
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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General Provisions - Commemorative Months - Maryland Sportsmanship Month

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This bill requires the Governor to annually proclaim February as Maryland Sportsmanship Month. The proclamation must urge the Department of Natural Resources (DNR), in conjunction with local recreation and parks departments, to observe Maryland Sportsmanship Month properly with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None. Urging DNR to observe Maryland Sportsmanship Month does not affect State finances. The bill grants flexibility on how to commemorate the occasion, and DNR advises that it does not have much direct involvement with youth and adult sporting events.

**Local Effect:** Minimal. Any increase in local recreation and parks department expenditures depends on if and how local governments choose to observe Maryland Sportsmanship Month. The bill grants flexibility on how to commemorate the occasion and does not require participation.

**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:** The preamble states that the five characteristics of sportsmanship are respect, fairness, integrity, responsibility, and perseverance and defines these five characteristics. The Mid-Atlantic Recreation and Parks’ Sports Alliance holds its annual Good Sports Awards Ceremony in February in Annapolis. The preamble states that under the direction of Al “Hondo” Handy, the Ocean City Recreation and Parks Department, and several other local partners across the State have successfully implemented sportsmanship months at the local level.

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## Additional Information

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** HB 270 (Delegate Carozza, *et al.*) - Health and Government Operations.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Natural Resources, Mid-Atlantic Recreation & Parks' Sports Alliance, Department of Legislative Services

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