

Department of Legislative Services
2017 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 603 (Senator Bates, *et al.*)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

General Provisions - Commemorative Months - Maryland Sportsmanship Month

This bill requires the Governor to annually proclaim March as Maryland Sportsmanship Month. The proclamation must urge local recreation and parks departments to observe Maryland Sportsmanship Month properly with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities. Examples of proper observation are specified.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill is directed at local recreation and parks departments.

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.

Analysis

Current Law: Sixteen official commemorative days, six months, and one week 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 |
| Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day | March 30 |
| Crime Victim and Advocate Commemorative Day | April 3 |
| John Hanson's Birthday ² | April 13 |
| National Healthcare Decisions Day | April 16 |
| Maryland Centenarians Day ³ | May |
| Negro Baseball League Day ⁴ | May |
| Law Day U.S.A. | May 1 |
| Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Services Workers Day ⁵ | June |
| Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week ⁶ | June |
| Juneteenth National Freedom Day | June 19 |
| Maryland Charter Day | June 20 |
| Thurgood Marshall Day | July 2 |
| Hispanic Heritage Month ⁷ | September/October |
| German-American Heritage Month | October |
| South Asian American Heritage Day | October 2 |
| 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 during the second week in June.

⁷Commemorated from September 15 to October 15.

Source: Department of Legislative Services

Background: The preamble states that the five characteristics of sportsmanship are respect, fairness, integrity, responsibility, and perseverance and defines these five characteristics. The preamble also states that a number of local recreation and parks departments across the State have successfully implemented sportsmanship months at the local level.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 270 of 2016, a similar bill, received an unfavorable report from the House Health and Government Operations Committee. Its cross file, SB 594, was withdrawn.

Cross File: HB 576 (Delegate Carozza, *et al.*) - Health and Government Operations.

Information Source(s): Department of Natural Resources; Department of Legislative Services

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md/lgc

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