

Department of Legislative Services

2017 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

First Reader

House Bill 57 (Delegate S. Howard)
Health and Government Operations

General Provisions - Commemorative Days - Watermen's Day

This bill requires the Governor to annually proclaim the last day of winter (the day before the spring equinox) as Watermen's Day.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Commemorating Watermen's Day does not affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

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 3:00 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: Watermen of the Chesapeake Bay harvest many species of seafood in different seasons, including blue crabs in summer, oysters in fall, and striped bass and perch in winter. Some watermen clam year round while others harvest crabs and oysters. Some watermen take out fishing parties in the summer and commercial fish in the winter. Most watermen have the equipment and gear necessary to do all of the above. According to the Department of Natural Resources, as of December 2016, for the 2016-2017 license year there were 5,385 licensed watermen in the State (this number excludes temporary transfers, guides, and dealers).

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

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 614 of 2016 received a hearing in the House Health and Government Operations Committee, but no further action was taken.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland Watermen's Association; Department of Natural Resources; Department of Legislative Services

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mm/lgc

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