

Department of Legislative Services
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 1171 (Senator Mathias)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

General Provisions - Commemorative Months - Maryland Sportsmen and
Sportswomen Month

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

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Urging DNR to observe the month does not affect State finances. The bill grants flexibility on how to commemorate the occasion, and DNR advises that it is not heavily involved 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 the 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, 6 months, and 1 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.

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 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. The Mid-Atlantic Recreation and Parks’ Sports Alliance holds its annual Good Sports Awards Ceremony in February in Annapolis.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 576 of 2017, a similar bill, received a hearing in the House Health and Government Operations Committee, but no further action was taken. Its cross file, SB 603, received a hearing in the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, but no further action was taken. 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: None.

Information Source(s): Baltimore City; Harford and Wicomico counties; Department of Natural Resources; Department of Legislative Services

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mm/mcr

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