

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2020 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

Senate Bill 464 (Senator Eckardt)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Commemorative Days - Maryland Voting Equity Reform Day

This bill requires the Governor to annually proclaim the fourth Tuesday of October as Maryland Voting Equity Reform Day.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Compliance with the bill does not affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Sixteen official commemorative days, seven 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.

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
Caribbean Heritage Month	August
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: Generally, “at-large” is the designation for members of a governing body (e.g., a county) who are elected or appointed by the entire jurisdiction. Until 1986, county councils were elected at-large by the entire county, rather than for local representation within a district. Chapters 707 and 708 of 1986, among other things, eliminated the practice of at-large voting for county commissioners and implemented single-member districts. In 1987, a 40,000 pound granite statue was erected in Dorchester County to commemorate the passage of the legislation, which ordered statewide voting equity.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: HB 950 (Dorchester County Delegation) - Health and Government Operations.

Information Source(s): Dorchester County Historical Society; *Dorchester Banner*; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 3, 2020
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