A BILL ENTITLED

AN ACT concerning

General Provisions – Commemorative Days – Overdose Awareness Day

FOR the purpose of requiring the Governor annually to proclaim a certain day as Overdose Awareness Day; requiring the Governor annually to order the State flag to be flown at half-staff on Overdose Awareness Day; and generally relating to Overdose Awareness Day.

BY renumbering

Article – General Provisions
Section 7–414 through 7–417, respectively
to be Section 7–415 through 7–418, respectively
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2019 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article – General Provisions
Section 7–414
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2019 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

Preamble

WHEREAS, Drug addiction is a chronic disease, characterized by compulsive or difficult to control drug use despite harmful consequences; and

WHEREAS, Drug addiction is seen by both the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the World Health Organization as a fast-growing epidemic that can all too easily lead to overdose and death; and

WHEREAS, For every drug overdose that results in death, there are many more nonfatal overdoses, each taking an emotional and economic toll on the individual, their
family, and the community at large; and

WHEREAS, Drug addiction can fuel feelings of shame, guilt, embarrassment, depression, and hopelessness, causing individuals to resist seeking treatment and support; and

WHEREAS, Overdose Awareness Day is a global event held on August 31 each year that aims to raise awareness of drug overdoses, reduce the stigma of a drug–related death, and acknowledge the grief felt by families and friends remembering those who have died or had a permanent injury as a result of a drug overdose; and

WHEREAS, Recognizing Overdose Awareness Day in Maryland sends a strong message to former or current substance users, namely, that they are valued, and that overdose death is preventable; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That Section(s) 7–414 through 7–417, respectively, of Article – General Provisions of the Annotated Code of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 7–415 through 7–418, respectively.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

Article – General Provisions

7–414.

(A) The Governor annually shall proclaim August 31 as Overdose Awareness Day.

(B) The Governor annually shall order the State flag to be flown at half–staff on August 31.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July 1, 2021.