

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 319 (Delegates R. Jones and Williams)
Health and Government Operations

General Provisions - Commemorative Days - Overdose Awareness

This bill requires the Governor to annually proclaim August 31 as Overdose Awareness Day. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2022.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Commemorating Overdose Awareness Day does not affect State finances.

Local Effect: The bill does not materially affect local government operations or finances.

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

¹ Day designated as new year on the Asian lunar calendar.

² John Hanson served as the first president of the Continental Congress under the Articles of Confederation from 1781 to 1782.

³ Commemorated on the second Thursday in May.

⁴ Commemorated on the second Saturday in May.

⁵ Commemorated on the first Sunday in June.

⁶ Commemorated during the second week in June.

⁷ Commemorated from September 15 to October 15.

Source: Department of Legislative Services

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: SB 936 of 2021, a similar bill, received a hearing in the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, but no further action was taken.

Designated Cross File: SB 100 (Senator Jackson) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

Information Source(s): Governor's Office; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 8, 2022
js/jc

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