

Chapter 13

(House Bill 1244)

AN ACT concerning

Maryland Holocaust Remembrance Day

FOR the purpose of requiring the Governor to annually proclaim a certain day as Maryland Holocaust Remembrance Day; requiring the proclamation to include a certain declaration; and generally relating to Maryland Holocaust Remembrance Day.

BY renumbering

Article – General Provisions
Section 7–402 through 7–418
to be Section 7–403 through 7–419, respectively
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2019 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

BY adding to

Article – General Provisions
Section 7–402
Annotated Code of Maryland
(2019 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

Preamble

WHEREAS, The Holocaust, the state-sponsored, systematic persecution and murder of European Jews by Nazi Germany and its collaborators, resulted in the murder of six million Jewish men and women, including one and a half million children; and

WHEREAS, Millions of survivors of the Holocaust endured great suffering through violence, torture, slave labor, and brutal medical experimentation; and

~~WHEREAS, Millions of others, including Roma, people with disabilities, LGBTQ people, Jehovah's Witnesses, political dissidents, and more suffered and died because of bigotry and hate; and~~

WHEREAS, Prejudice, bigotry, bias, and racism have been, and continue to be, the cause of conflict, war, and mass atrocities; and

WHEREAS, Research shows that the tragedy that is the Holocaust is quickly being forgotten, which will inevitably lead to an increased likelihood of ethnic cleansing, genocide, terrorism, and crimes against humanity; and

WHEREAS, Social media has proven to be a platform for spreading misinformation, lies, and hate; and

WHEREAS, Holocaust denial, the effort to minimize the historical reality and barbarism of the Holocaust and the vast extent of death and carnage it caused, is becoming commonplace; and

WHEREAS, Remembering the Holocaust offers an opportunity to study and reflect on the moral responsibilities of individuals, societies, and governments; and

WHEREAS, It is important to remember, honor, and emulate the righteous people, including the Allied Forces, who risked their lives to save thousands of innocent people during the Holocaust and to learn from their legacy of courage, selflessness, and hope; and

WHEREAS, January 27th is the date designated by the United Nations as International Holocaust Remembrance Day; and

WHEREAS, The State of Israel, a democratic ally of the United States, has been a safe haven for Jews fleeing the horrors of the Holocaust and persecution; now, therefore,

SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND, That Section(s) 7–402 through 7–418 of Article – General Provisions of the Annotated Code of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 7–403 through 7–419, respectively.

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

Article – General Provisions

7–402.

(A) THE GOVERNOR SHALL ANNUALLY PROCLAIM JANUARY 27 AS MARYLAND HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY.

(B) THE PROCLAMATION SHALL DECLARE MARYLAND HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY:

(1) A DAY OF REFLECTION, RECOLLECTION, AND DETERMINATION FOR MARYLAND FAMILIES, EDUCATORS, RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES, POLITICAL BODIES, AND MEDIA TO REMEMBER THE HUMAN TRAGEDY THAT IS THE HOLOCAUST; AND

(2) A PLEDGE TO SPREAD THE LESSONS AND THE REALITY OF THE HOLOCAUST TO FUTURE GENERATIONS IN AN EFFORT TO ENSURE THAT WE NEVER FORGET AND BEAR WITNESS TO THE MASS SLAUGHTER OF HUMAN BEINGS AS A CONSEQUENCE OF PREJUDICE, BIGOTRY, IGNORANCE, AND HATE.

SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2023.

Approved by the Governor, April 11, 2023.