

HOUSE BILL 993

P1

4lr2879

By: **Delegate Stein**

Introduced and read first time: February 5, 2024

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Commemorative Weeks – Maryland Climate Education Week**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Governor annually to proclaim a certain week as
4 Maryland Climate Education Week; requiring the proclamation to urge participation
5 in certain activities and initiatives and the taking of certain actions; and generally
6 relating to Maryland Climate Education Week.

7 BY renumbering

8 Article – General Provisions

9 Section 7–601

10 to be Section 7–602

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

13 BY adding to

14 Article – General Provisions

15 Section 7–601

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2023 Supplement)

18 Preamble

19 WHEREAS, Maryland has a long history of environmental stewardship and a
20 commitment to protecting the natural beauty and resources of the State; and

21 WHEREAS, Climate change poses a significant threat to our environment, economy,
22 and public health; and

23 WHEREAS, Maryland is uniquely positioned to lead in climate change education as
24 a state that possesses diverse ecosystems, vulnerable coastal areas, and the Chesapeake
25 Bay, all of which are directly impacted by climate pollution; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WHEREAS, Education plays a vital role in raising awareness about climate change
2 and its causes, consequences, and solutions; and

3 WHEREAS, Institutions of higher education, research organizations, and
4 environmental and advocacy groups in the State are at the forefront of climate change
5 research and education and are the State's partners in this critical effort; and

6 WHEREAS, Maryland is dedicated to fostering a culture of sustainability and
7 environmental responsibility among its residents, businesses, and institutions; and

8 WHEREAS, Maryland leads the nation in its efforts to reduce greenhouse gas
9 emissions that cause climate pollution; now, therefore,

10 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
11 That Section(s) 7-601 of Article – General Provisions of the Annotated Code of Maryland
12 be renumbered to be Section(s) 7-602.

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

15 **Article – General Provisions**

16 **7-601.**

17 **(A) THE GOVERNOR ANNUALLY SHALL PROCLAIM THE FIRST WEEK OF**
18 **APRIL AS MARYLAND CLIMATE EDUCATION WEEK.**

19 **(B) THE PROCLAMATION SHALL URGE RESIDENTS OF ALL AGES TO:**

20 **(1) PARTICIPATE IN EDUCATIONAL ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES**
21 **THAT PROMOTE AN AWARENESS OF CLIMATE CHANGE; AND**

22 **(2) TAKE ACTION TOWARD THE STATE'S CLIMATE COMMITMENTS.**

23 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
24 October 1, 2024.