

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader - Revised

Senate Bill 615

(Senator Simonaire, *et al.*)

Education, Energy, and the Environment

Health and Government Operations

General Provisions - Commemorative Days - Maryland Veterans Suicide
Prevention Day

This bill requires the Governor to annually proclaim September 30 as Maryland Veterans Suicide Prevention Day. The proclamation must declare Maryland Veterans Suicide Prevention Day (1) a day of reflection, recollection, and determination for Maryland veterans, service members, family members, and all Marylanders to remember the human tragedy that is associated with veteran suicide and (2) a pledge to our veteran community to work to destigmatize mental health support, create more opportunities for those with mental health issues to speak freely and get the support they need, and encourage veterans to reach out for help. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Commemorating Maryland Veterans Suicide Prevention Day does not affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Nineteen 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
Maryland Holocaust Remembrance Day	January 27
Black History Month	February
Irish-American Heritage Month	March
Women's History Month	March
6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion Day	March 9
Tuskegee Airmen Commemoration Day ²	March
Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day	March 30
Crime Victim and Advocate Commemorative Day	April 3
John Hanson's Birthday ³	April 13
National Healthcare Decisions Day	April 16
Maryland Centenarians Day ⁴	May
Negro Baseball League Day ⁵	May
Law Day U.S.A.	May 1
Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Services Workers Day ⁶	June
Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week ⁷	June
Maryland Charter Day	June 20
Thurgood Marshall Day	July 2
Caribbean Heritage Month	August
Hispanic Heritage Month ⁸	September/October
German-American Heritage Month	October
South Asian American Heritage Day	October 2
Dashain Day	October 5
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 Commemorated on the fourth Thursday in March.

³ John Hanson served as the first president of the Continental Congress under the Articles of Confederation from 1781 to 1782.

⁴ Commemorated on the second Thursday in May.

⁵ Commemorated on the second Saturday in May.

⁶ Commemorated on the first Sunday in June.

⁷ Commemorated during the second week in June.

⁸ Commemorated from September 15 to October 15.

Source: Department of Legislative Services

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has not been introduced within the last three years.

Designated Cross File: None.

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

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 5, 2024
rh/jc Third Reader - March 19, 2024
Revised - Amendment(s) - March 19, 2024

Analysis by: Arnold H. Adja

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510