

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2026 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**Third Reader**

House Bill 661 (Delegates Wolek and Solomon)

Government, Labor, and Elections

Education, Energy, and the Environment

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**General Provisions - Commemorative Months - Muslim American Heritage and Jewish American Heritage Months**

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This bill requires the Governor to annually proclaim the month of January as Muslim American Heritage Month in recognition of the contributions that Muslim Americans have made to the State and the month of May as Jewish American Heritage Month in recognition of the contributions that Jewish Americans have made to the State. The proclamations must urge educational and cultural organizations to observe Muslim American Heritage Month and Jewish American Heritage Month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities.

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. Commemorating Muslim American Heritage Month and Jewish American Heritage Month does not affect State finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**Analysis**

**Current Law:** Twenty official commemorative days, seven months, and one week are recognized in State law, as shown in **Appendix – Official Commemorative Days and Months in Maryland**. 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.

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## Additional Information

**Recent Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See HB 899 of 2025.

**Designated Cross File:** SB 308 (Senator Hettleman, *et al.*) - Education, Energy, and the Environment.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 27, 2026  
js/jkb Third Reader - March 23, 2026

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## Appendix – Official Commemorative Days and Months in Maryland

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|---|-------------------|
| Asian Lunar New Year Day <sup>1</sup>                         | January/February  |
| Maryland Holocaust Remembrance Day                            | January 27        |
| Black History Month   | February          |
| Irish-American Heritage Month                                 | March             |
| Tuskegee Airmen Commemoration Day <sup>2</sup>                | March             |
| Women’s History Month   | March             |
| 6888 <sup>th</sup> Central Postal Directory Battalion Day     | March 9           |
| Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day                             | March 30          |
| Crime Victim and Advocate Commemorative Day                   | April 3           |
| John Hanson’s Birthday <sup>3</sup>                           | April 13          |
| National Healthcare Decisions Day                             | April 16          |
| Maryland Centenarians Day <sup>4</sup>                        | May               |
| Negro Baseball League Day <sup>5</sup>                        | May               |
| Law Day U.S.A.  | May 1             |
| Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Services Workers Day <sup>6</sup> | June              |
| Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week <sup>7</sup>                    | June              |
| Maryland Charter Day  | June 20           |
| Thurgood Marshall Day   | July 2            |
| Caribbean Heritage Month                                      | August            |
| Hispanic Heritage Month <sup>8</sup>                          | September/October |
| Maryland Veterans Suicide Prevention Day                      | September 30      |
| 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       |

<sup>1</sup>Day designated as new year on the Asian lunar calendar.

<sup>2</sup>Commemorated on the fourth Thursday in March.

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

<sup>4</sup>Commemorated on the second Thursday in May.

<sup>5</sup>Commemorated on the second Saturday in May.

<sup>6</sup>Commemorated on the first Sunday in June.

<sup>7</sup>Commemorated during the second week in June.

<sup>8</sup>Commemorated from September 15 to October 15.

Source: Department of Legislative Services