

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 524 (Delegate Mireku-North, *et al.*)
Government, Labor, and Elections

General Provisions - Commemorative Months - African Heritage Month

This bill requires the Governor to annually proclaim the month of September as African Heritage Month in recognition of the contributions that African Americans have made to the State. The proclamation must urge educational and cultural organizations to observe African Heritage Month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2026.**

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Commemorating African Heritage Month does not affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

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.

Additional Information

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

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 5, 2026
jg/jkb

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Appendix – 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
Tuskegee Airmen Commemoration Day ²	March
Women’s History Month	March
6888 th 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 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
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

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

²Commemorated on the fourth Thursday in March.

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

⁴Commemorated on the second Thursday in May.

⁵Commemorated on the second Saturday in May.

⁶Commemorated on the first Sunday in June.

⁷Commemorated during the second week in June.

⁸Commemorated from September 15 to October 15.

Source: Department of Legislative Services