Department of Legislative Services

Maryland General Assembly
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 458 (Delegate Patterson, *et al.*)
Government, Labor, and Elections

General Provisions - Commemorative Months - Water Safety Month

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This bill requires the Governor to annually proclaim the month of May as Water Safety Month to raise awareness about drowning prevention and promote safe practices around all bodies of water. The proclamation must urge educational and civic organizations to observe Water Safety Month properly with appropriate programs, events, and activities.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. Commemorating Water Safety 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 Comments: The Governor previously proclaimed May 2025 as National Water Safety Month in Maryland.

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
caw/jkb

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Appendix – State Symbols of Maryland

Type	Name	Statutory Authority
Bird	Baltimore Oriole	Ch. 54 of 1947
Boat	Skipjack	Ch. 788 of 1985
Cat	Calico Cat	Ch. 194 of 2001
Cocktail	Original Maryland Orange Crush	Ch. 487 of 2025
Crustacean	Blue Crab	Ch. 724 of 1989
Dessert	Smith Island Cake	Chs. 164/165 of 2008
Dinosaur	*Astrodon johnstoni*	Chs. 403/404 of 1998
Dog	Chesapeake Bay Retriever	Ch. 156 of 1964
Drink	Milk	Ch. 220 of 1998
Exercise	Walking	Chs. 400/401 of 2008
Fish	Rockfish (Striped Bass)	Ch. 513 of 1965
Flower	Black-eyed Susan	Ch. 458 of 1918
Folk Dance	Square Dance	Ch. 707 of 1994
Fossil Shell	*Ecphora gardnerae*	Ch. 688 of 1994
Gem	Patuxent River Stone	Ch. 272 of 2004
Horse	Thoroughbred Horse	Ch. 359 of 2003
Insect	Baltimore Checkerspot Butterfly	Ch. 253 of 1973
Mineral	Chromite	Chs. 486/487 of 2025
Paleontology Collection and Research Center	Calvert Marine Museum	Chs. 742/743 of 2018
Reptile	Diamondback Terrapin	Ch. 476 of 1994
Spirit	Maryland Rye or Maryland Rye Whiskey	Chs. 308/309 of 2023
Sport	Jousting	Ch. 134 of 1962
Team Sport	Lacrosse	Ch. 272 of 2004
Theater	Center Stage	Ch. 1003 of 1978
Theater – Summer	Olney Theatre	Ch. 1003 of 1978
Tree	White Oak	Ch. 731 of 1941

Source: Maryland State Archives