



HoCo JAG

Howard County Jewish Advocacy Group

Proposed Committee Amendments

House Bill 0661 – General Provisions – Commemorative Months Muslim American Heritage Month and Jewish American Heritage Month

Submitted by: **Howard County Jewish Advocacy Group (HoCoJAG)**

Position: **Favorable with Amendments**

Amendment 1 – Remove Unsupported Demographic Claims

Page 1, Preamble

Strike the clauses containing specific demographic estimates for Muslim and Jewish Marylanders.

Replace with:

WHEREAS, Muslim Americans and Jewish Americans have made important civic, cultural, educational, and economic contributions to the State of Maryland;

Rationale:

Religious affiliation is not collected by the U.S. Census, and population estimates vary significantly depending on methodology. Removing specific demographic figures ensures the bill's findings rely on verifiable information while preserving recognition of both communities' contributions.

Amendment 2 – Ensure Observances Promote Civic Unity

Page 2 (Activities associated with commemorative observances)

Add the following sentence:

Activities conducted in observance of Muslim American Heritage Month or Jewish American Heritage Month under this section shall promote education, cultural understanding, and mutual respect among the diverse communities of the State and may not be used to promote discrimination, hostility, or hatred toward any group based on religion, ethnicity, race, national origin, or shared ancestry or ethnic characteristics.

Rationale:

This clarification ensures that state-recognized observances remain focused on education and cultural recognition while reinforcing Maryland's longstanding commitment to respect and inclusion for all communities.

Requested Committee Action: FWA – Favorable With Amendments
