



House Government, Labor, and Elections Committee
The Honorable Melissa Wells, Chair
The Honorable Kenneth Kerr, Vice Chair

March 17, 2026

FAVORABLE | HB661 - General Provisions - Commemorative Months -
Designating January as Muslim American Heritage and May as Jewish American Heritage Months

The Governor's Commissions on Middle Eastern American Affairs and South Asian American Affairs ("the Commissions") stand in support of **HB661** designating January as Muslim American Heritage Month and May as Jewish American Heritage Month in Maryland. Recognizing Muslim and Jewish Heritage Months would be an important step toward fostering understanding and inclusion and celebrating Maryland's ethnic and religious diversity.

The Muslim and Jewish communities in the State of Maryland are themselves racially and ethnically diverse. Similarly, Maryland's Middle Eastern American and South Asian American communities include individuals representing a variety of religious faiths. Muslim and Jewish individuals represent important segments of this culturally diverse community. Passing **HB661** would be an important statement of welcome and acknowledgement of these diverse communities in our State.

In sharing its support for **HB661**, the Commissions are hopeful the Maryland House of Delegates will pass this important bill. The Commissions remain committed to uplifting the rich religious and ethnic diversity of our state. The Commissions will continue to advocate for initiatives and programming that educate and engage Marylanders about these faith and ethnic communities, further enriching the inclusive culture of our state.

Chair, Mona Kishore _____ **Date** 03/13/2026
Approved by the Governor's Commission on Middle Eastern American Affairs

Chair, Preet Takhar _____ **Date** 03/13/2026
Approved by the Governor's Commission on South Asian American Affairs