



Montgomery County

Office of Intergovernmental Relations

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HB 524

DATE: March 17, 2026

SPONSOR: Delegate Mireku-North, et al.

ASSIGNED TO: Government, Labor, and Elections

CONTACT PERSON: Sara Morningstar (Sara.Morningstar@montgomerycountymd.gov)

POSITION: Support (Montgomery County Office of Community Partnerships)

General Provisions – Commemorative Months – African Heritage Month

House Bill 524 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 of Maryland. The proclamation must urge educational and cultural institutions to observe African Heritage month with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities. The Montgomery County Office of Community Partnerships supports this measure.

Since 2009, Montgomery County has proudly proclaimed September as African Heritage Month. This annual observance has strengthened community bonds by celebrating cultural and historical contributions of African immigrants and the African diaspora. Extending this recognition statewide would:

- Provide a consistent and unified recognition of African American contributions;
- Encourage enhanced educational programming in our schools and libraries;
- Create structured opportunities for meaningful community engagement and dialogue;
- Strengthen the State's commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion; and
- Honor the legacy of African Americans who have helped to shape Maryland's past, present, and future.

An annual Statewide celebration of African Heritage Month will provide a dedicated time to celebrate the immense achievements and influence of African Americans in every field, from science and arts to politics and religion, and will ensure that the stories of resilience, resistance, and triumph are integrated into the broader narrative of Maryland's rich history. For these reasons, the Montgomery County Office of Community Partnerships would urge the Committee to adopt a favorable report on House Bill 524.