

Department of Legislative Services
2016 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 1216 (Delegate Chang, *et al.*)
Health and Government Operations

General Provisions - Commemorative Days - K9 Veterans Day

This bill requires the Governor to annually proclaim March 13 as K9 Veterans Day.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Commemorating K9 Veterans Day does not affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Twelve official commemorative days and six months are recognized in State law, as shown in **Exhibit 1**. The Governor also must issue a proclamation each year encouraging citizens and other individuals to observe a moment of silence at 3 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.

Background: As noted in the preamble, thousands of dogs have served with honor, dignity, and valor through the history of our country's birth and growth and have been employed by the U.S. military from World War I to present conflicts. The official K9 Corps was created on March 13, 1942. In addition, many federal, State, and local law enforcement agencies have established K9 Corps units where dogs are trained for specialized activities such as bomb detection, drug interdiction, search and rescue, and border patrol. In 2011, New Jersey designated March 13 as K9 Veterans Day.

Exhibit 1
Official Commemorative Days and Months in Maryland

| | |
|---|-------------------|
| Asian Lunar New Year Day ¹ | January/February |
| Black History Month | February |
| Irish-American Heritage Month | March |
| Women’s History Month | March |
| Crime Victim and Advocate Day | April 3 |
| John Hanson’s Birthday ² | April 13 |
| Maryland Centenarians Day ³ | May |
| Negro Baseball League Day ⁴ | May |
| Law Day | May 1 |
| Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Services Workers Day ⁵ | June |
| Juneteenth National Freedom Day | June 19 |
| Maryland Charter Day | June 20 |
| Hispanic Heritage Month ⁶ | September/October |
| German-American Heritage Month | October |
| 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.

²John Hanson served as the first president of the Continental Congress under the Articles of Confederation from 1781 to 1782.

³Commemorated on the second Thursday in May.

⁴Commemorated on the second Saturday in May.

⁵Commemorated on the first Sunday in June.

⁶Commemorated from September 15 to October 15.

Source: Department of Legislative Services

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: SB 260 of 2015 received a hearing in the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee, but no further action was taken. SB 651 of 2014 passed the Senate with amendments and received a hearing in the House Health and Government Operations Committee, but no further action was taken.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Legislative Services

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kb/lgc

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