

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2020 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 122 (Delegate Chang)
Health and Government Operations

General Provisions - Commemorative Days - Hangul Day

This bill requires the Governor to annually proclaim October 9 as Hangul Day.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Commemorating Hangul Day does not affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Sixteen official commemorative days, seven months, and one week 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 3:00 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.

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
Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day	March 30
Crime Victim and Advocate Commemorative Day	April 3
John Hanson’s Birthday ²	April 13
National Healthcare Decisions Day	April 16
Maryland Centenarians Day ³	May
Negro Baseball League Day ⁴	May
Law Day U.S.A.	May 1
Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Services Workers Day ⁵	June
Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week ⁶	June
Juneteenth National Freedom Day	June 19
Maryland Charter Day	June 20
Thurgood Marshall Day	July 2
Caribbean Heritage Month	August
Hispanic Heritage Month ⁷	September/October
German-American Heritage Month	October
South Asian American Heritage Day	October 2
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 during the second week in June.

⁷Commemorated from September 15 to October 15.

Source: Department of Legislative Services

Background: Hangul is the alphabetic system for writing the Korean language. The Korean alphabet has 24 letters (including 14 consonants and 10 vowels). Prior to its creation in the 15th century by King Sejong the Great, Koreans typically utilized Classical Chinese. Hangul Day is a national holiday in both North and South Korea to commemorate the creation of the Korean alphabet. It is celebrated in South Korea on October 9 and in North Korea on January 15.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): National Institute of Korean Language, Republic of Korea; Encyclopedia Britannica; *Asia Society*; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 9, 2020
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