

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
Third Reader

House Bill 484

(Delegate Bhandari, *et al.*)

Health and Government Operations

Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

General Provisions – Commemorative Days – Dashain Day

This bill requires the Governor to annually proclaim October 5 as Dashain Day, a festival originating in Nepal that celebrates and symbolizes victory of good over evil.

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: The bill does not materially affect local government operations or finances.

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 |

¹ Day designated as new year on the Asian lunar calendar.

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

³ Commemorated on the second Thursday in May.

⁴ Commemorated on the second Saturday in May.

⁵ Commemorated on the first Sunday in June.

⁶ Commemorated during the second week in June.

⁷ Commemorated from September 15 to October 15.

Source: Department of Legislative Services

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: HB 676, a similar bill, received a hearing in the House Health and Government Operations Committee, but no further action was taken. Its cross file, SB 677, received an unfavorable report by the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee.

Designated Cross File: SB 470 (Senator Rosapepe) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

Information Source(s): Governor's Office; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - January 30, 2022
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