

HOUSE BILL 1244

P1

3lr3026
CF SB 842

By: **Delegate Attar**

Introduced and read first time: February 15, 2023

Assigned to: Rules and Executive Nominations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Maryland Holocaust Remembrance Day**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Governor to annually proclaim a certain day as Maryland
4 Holocaust Remembrance Day; requiring the proclamation to include a certain
5 declaration; and generally relating to Maryland Holocaust Remembrance Day.

6 BY renumbering

7 Article – General Provisions

8 Section 7–402 through 7–418

9 to be Section 7–403 through 7–419, respectively

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

12 BY adding to

13 Article – General Provisions

14 Section 7–402

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2022 Supplement)

17 Preamble

18 WHEREAS, The Holocaust, the state–sponsored, systematic persecution and
19 murder of European Jews by Nazi Germany and its collaborators, resulted in the murder
20 of six million Jewish men and women, including one and a half million children; and

21 WHEREAS, Millions of survivors of the Holocaust endured great suffering through
22 violence, torture, slave labor, and brutal medical experimentation; and

23 WHEREAS, Millions of others, including Roma, people with disabilities, LGBTQ
24 people, Jehovah’s Witnesses, political dissidents, and more suffered and died because of
25 bigotry and hate; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WHEREAS, Prejudice, bigotry, bias, and racism have been, and continue to be, the
2 cause of conflict, war, and mass atrocities; and

3 WHEREAS, Research shows that the tragedy that is the Holocaust is quickly being
4 forgotten, which will inevitably lead to an increased likelihood of ethnic cleansing, genocide,
5 terrorism, and crimes against humanity; and

6 WHEREAS, Social media has proven to be a platform for spreading misinformation,
7 lies, and hate; and

8 WHEREAS, Holocaust denial, the effort to minimize the historical reality and
9 barbarism of the Holocaust and the vast extent of death and carnage it caused, is becoming
10 commonplace; and

11 WHEREAS, Remembering the Holocaust offers an opportunity to study and reflect
12 on the moral responsibilities of individuals, societies, and governments; and

13 WHEREAS, It is important to remember, honor, and emulate the righteous people,
14 including the Allied Forces, who risked their lives to save thousands of innocent people
15 during the Holocaust and to learn from their legacy of courage, selflessness, and hope; and

16 WHEREAS, January 27th is the date designated by the United Nations as
17 International Holocaust Remembrance Day; and

18 WHEREAS, The State of Israel, a democratic ally of the United States, has been a
19 safe haven for Jews fleeing the horrors of the Holocaust and persecution; now, therefore,

20 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
21 That Section(s) 7-402 through 7-418 of Article – General Provisions of the Annotated Code
22 of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 7-403 through 7-419, respectively.

23 SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Laws of Maryland read
24 as follows:

25 **Article – General Provisions**

26 **7-402.**

27 **(A) THE GOVERNOR SHALL ANNUALLY PROCLAIM JANUARY 27 AS**
28 **MARYLAND HOLOCAUST REMEMBRANCE DAY.**

29 **(B) THE PROCLAMATION SHALL DECLARE MARYLAND HOLOCAUST**
30 **REMEMBRANCE DAY:**

1 **(1) A DAY OF REFLECTION, RECOLLECTION, AND DETERMINATION**
2 **FOR MARYLAND FAMILIES, EDUCATORS, RELIGIOUS COMMUNITIES, POLITICAL**
3 **BODIES, AND MEDIA TO REMEMBER THE HUMAN TRAGEDY THAT IS THE HOLOCAUST;**
4 **AND**

5 **(2) A PLEDGE TO SPREAD THE LESSONS AND THE REALITY OF THE**
6 **HOLOCAUST TO FUTURE GENERATIONS IN AN EFFORT TO ENSURE THAT WE NEVER**
7 **FORGET AND BEAR WITNESS TO THE MASS SLAUGHTER OF HUMAN BEINGS AS A**
8 **CONSEQUENCE OF PREJUDICE, BIGOTRY, IGNORANCE, AND HATE.**

9 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
10 October 1, 2023.