

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2023 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**First Reader**

House Bill 317 (Delegate J. Long)  
Health and Government Operations

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**Overdose Awareness Day**

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This bill requires the Governor to annually proclaim August 31 as Overdose Awareness Day. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2023.**

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**Fiscal Summary**

**State Effect:** None. Commemorating Overdose Awareness Day does not affect State finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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**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.

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**Exhibit 1**  
**Official Commemorative Days and Months in Maryland**

Asian Lunar New Year Day <sup>1</sup>	January/February
Black History Month	February
Irish-American Heritage Month	March
Women's History Month	March
Tuskegee Airmen Commemoration Day <sup>2</sup>	March
Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day	March 30
Crime Victim and Advocate Commemorative Day	April 3
John Hanson's Birthday <sup>3</sup>	April 13
National Healthcare Decisions Day	April 16
Maryland Centenarians Day <sup>4</sup>	May
Negro Baseball League Day <sup>5</sup>	May
Law Day U.S.A.	May 1
Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Services Workers Day <sup>6</sup>	June
Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week <sup>7</sup>	June
Maryland Charter Day	June 20
Thurgood Marshall Day	July 2
Caribbean Heritage Month	August
Hispanic Heritage Month <sup>8</sup>	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

<sup>1</sup> Day designated as new year on the Asian lunar calendar.

<sup>2</sup> Commemorated on the fourth Thursday in March.

<sup>3</sup> John Hanson served as the first president of the Continental Congress under the Articles of Confederation from 1781 to 1782.

<sup>4</sup> Commemorated on the second Thursday in May.

<sup>5</sup> Commemorated on the second Saturday in May.

<sup>6</sup> Commemorated on the first Sunday in June.

<sup>7</sup> Commemorated during the second week in June.

<sup>8</sup> Commemorated from September 15 to October 15.

Source: Department of Legislative Services

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## **Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See SB 100 and HB 319 of 2022; and SB 936 of 2021.

**Designated Cross File:** SB 138 (Senators Jackson and Gallion) - Education, Energy, and the Environment.

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

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 26, 2023  
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