

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 295 (Delegate J. Long, *et al.*)
Health and Government Operations

Overdose Awareness Day

This bill requires the Governor to annually proclaim August 31 as Overdose Awareness Day. **The bill takes effect July 1, 2024.**

Fiscal Summary

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

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Nineteen 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 |
| Maryland Holocaust Remembrance Day | January 27 |
| Black History Month | February |
| Irish-American Heritage Month | March |
| Women's History Month | March |
| 6888th Central Postal Directory Battalion Day | March 9 |
| Tuskegee Airmen Commemoration Day ² | March |
| Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day | March 30 |
| Crime Victim and Advocate Commemorative Day | April 3 |
| John Hanson's Birthday ³ | April 13 |
| National Healthcare Decisions Day | April 16 |
| Maryland Centenarians Day ⁴ | May |
| Negro Baseball League Day ⁵ | May |
| Law Day U.S.A. | May 1 |
| Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Services Workers Day ⁶ | June |
| Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week ⁷ | June |
| Maryland Charter Day | June 20 |
| Thurgood Marshall Day | July 2 |
| Caribbean Heritage Month | August |
| Hispanic Heritage Month ⁸ | September/October |
| German-American Heritage Month | October |
| South Asian American Heritage Day | October 2 |
| Dashain Day | October 5 |
| 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 Commemorated on the fourth Thursday in March.

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

⁴ Commemorated on the second Thursday in May.

⁵ Commemorated on the second Saturday in May.

⁶ Commemorated on the first Sunday in June.

⁷ Commemorated during the second week in June.

⁸ Commemorated from September 15 to October 15.

Source: Department of Legislative Services

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See SB 138 and HB 317 of 2023; SB 100 and HB 319 of 2022; and SB 936 of 2021.

Designated Cross File: SB 103 (Senator Jackson) - Education, Energy, and the Environment., SB 103 (Senator Jackson) - Education, Energy, and the Environment.

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

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js/jc

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