

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2012 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 1164 (Delegate Lee, *et al.*)  
Health and Government Operations

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State Government - Commemorative Days - Harriet Tubman Day

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This bill requires the Governor to annually proclaim March 10 as Harriet Tubman Day.

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Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** Commemorating Harriet Tubman Day does not affect State finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

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Analysis

**Current Law:** Eight official commemorative days and three months 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 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.

**Background:** Harriet Tubman was born a slave in Dorchester County, Maryland. She later became a Union spy and, as one of the most well-known conductors on the Underground Railroad, helped lead many slaves to freedom. In her later years, Tubman became active in the women's suffrage movement. The 100<sup>th</sup> anniversary of her death occurs on March 10, 2013.

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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
Women's History Month	March
John Hanson's Birthday <sup>2</sup>	April 13
Negro Baseball League Day <sup>3</sup>	May
Law Day	May 1
Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Services Workers Day <sup>4</sup>	June
Maryland Charter Day	June 20
Hispanic Heritage Month <sup>5</sup>	September/October
Poetry Day	October 15
Annapolis Charter Day	December 17

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

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

<sup>3</sup>Commemorated on the second Saturday in May.

<sup>4</sup>Commemorated on the first Sunday in June.

<sup>5</sup>Commemorated from September 15 to October 15.

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**Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** None.

**Cross File:** SB 777 (Senator Pugh, *et al.*) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Legislative Services

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ncs/hlb

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