

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2018 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 49 (Delegate Wilson)
Health and Government Operations

General Provisions - Commemorative Months - Foster Care Month

This bill requires the Governor to annually proclaim May as Foster Care Month in recognition of those who devote their lives to improving the lives of foster children. The proclamation must urge all residents of Maryland to volunteer their talents and energies on behalf of children in foster care, foster parents, and child welfare professionals.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: Commemorating Foster Care Month does not affect State finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: Sixteen official commemorative days, six months, and one week are recognized in State law, as shown in **Appendix – Official Commemorative Days and Months in Maryland**. 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.

Background: Foster care is a temporary service that provides short-term care and supportive services to children who are unable to live at home because of child abuse or neglect. Foster children live in family foster homes and group care settings. Children who

are unable to be reunited with their family of origin are frequently adopted by foster families, resulting in an ongoing need for more foster families.

In Maryland there are about 3,700 children in out-of-home placements each month throughout the State. Many of these children are placed in the 1,800 public foster homes and 480 treatment foster homes in the State. In addition, caseworkers and other child welfare professionals in all 24 jurisdictions serve these children.

Since 1988, the president of the United States has annually proclaimed May as Foster Care Month.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Department of Human Services; White House; Department of Legislative Services

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Appendix – 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
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

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

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

³Commemorated on the second Thursday in May.

⁴Commemorated on the second Saturday in May.

⁵Commemorated on the first Sunday in June.

⁶Commemorated during the second week in June.

⁷Commemorated from September 15 to October 15.

Source: Department of Legislative Services