

HOUSE BILL 668

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5lr1774

By: **Delegates M. Morgan, Arikan, Chisholm, Fisher, Grammer, Howard, Kipke, Nawrocki, and Szeliga**

Introduced and read first time: January 24, 2025

Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **Victims of Communism Memorial Day**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Governor annually to proclaim a certain day as Victims
4 of Communism Memorial Day; directing the Department of Legislative Services to
5 send a copy of this Act to the Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation; and
6 generally relating to Victims of Communism Memorial Day.

7 BY renumbering

8 Article – General Provisions

9 Section 7–421

10 to be Section 7–422

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

13 BY adding to

14 Article – General Provisions

15 Section 7–421

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

18 Preamble

19 WHEREAS, The year 2017 marked 100 years since the Bolshevik Revolution in
20 Russia, which resulted in the world’s first communist regime under Vladimir Lenin and led
21 to decades of oppression and violence under communist regimes throughout the world; and

22 WHEREAS, Based on the philosophy of Karl Marx, communism has proven
23 incompatible with the ideals of liberty, prosperity, and dignity of human life and has given
24 rise to such infamous totalitarian dictators as Joseph Stalin, Mao Zedong, Ho Chi Minh,
25 Pol Pot, Nicolae Ceausescu, the Castro brothers, and the Kim dynasty; and

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WHEREAS, President Trump declared November 7, 2017, a National Day for the
2 Victims of Communism, condemning communism as a political philosophy “incompatible
3 with liberty, prosperity, and the dignity of human life”; and

4 WHEREAS, The bipartisan U.S. Congressional Caucus for the Victims of
5 Communism stated publicly in 2018 that “Marx’s defenders often say he cannot be held
6 accountable for what communist regimes did long after his life and death; but Marxist
7 dictators who massacred their own people were applying communist ideology to political
8 practice”; and

9 WHEREAS, Communist regimes worldwide have killed more than 100 million
10 people and subjected countless others to the worst and widest–spread human rights abuses
11 known to history, with victims representing many different human ethnicities, creeds, and
12 backgrounds; and

13 WHEREAS, Through false promises of equality and liberation, communist regimes
14 have as a matter of government policy robbed their own citizens of the rights of freedom of
15 religion, freedom of speech, and freedom of association through coercion, brutality, and fear;
16 and

17 WHEREAS, Many victims of communism were persecuted as political prisoners for
18 speaking out against these regimes, and others were killed in genocidal, state–sponsored
19 purges; and

20 WHEREAS, In addition to violating basic human rights, communist regimes have
21 suppressed freedom of conscience, cultural life, and self–determination movements in more
22 than 40 nations; and

23 WHEREAS, The Victims of Communism Memorial Foundation in Washington, D.C.,
24 is a nonprofit organization, authorized by unanimous Act of the U.S. Congress, that
25 educates people about the ideology, history, and legacy of communism and honors the
26 people who have suffered and died under communist regimes; now, therefore,

27 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
28 That Section(s) 7–421 of Article – General Provisions of the Annotated Code of Maryland
29 be renumbered to be Section(s) 7–422.

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

32 **Article – General Provisions**

33 **7–421.**

34 **THE GOVERNOR ANNUALLY SHALL PROCLAIM NOVEMBER 7 AS VICTIMS OF**
35 **COMMUNISM MEMORIAL DAY.**

1 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That the Department of Legislative
2 Services is directed to send a copy of this Act to the Victims of Communism Memorial
3 Foundation, 900 15th Street NW, Washington, D.C. 20005.

4 SECTION 4. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect
5 October 1, 2025.