

# SENATE BILL 139

P1

5lr1692

(PRE-FILED)

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By: **Senator Ellis**

Requested: November 1, 2024

Introduced and read first time: January 8, 2025

Assigned to: Education, Energy, and the Environment and Budget and Taxation

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Government – Legal and Employee Holiday – Maryland Emancipation Day**

3 FOR the purpose of establishing Maryland Emancipation Day as a State legal holiday and  
4 State employee holiday; repealing the requirement that the Governor declare a  
5 certain day as Maryland Emancipation Day; and generally relating to Maryland  
6 Emancipation Day.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

8 Article – General Provisions

9 Section 1–111

10 Annotated Code of Maryland

11 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

12 BY repealing

13 Article – General Provisions

14 Section 7–420

15 Annotated Code of Maryland

16 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

17 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,

18 Article – State Personnel and Pensions

19 Section 9–201

20 Annotated Code of Maryland

21 (2024 Replacement Volume and 2024 Supplement)

22 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
23 That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

24 **Article – General Provisions**

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 1–111.

2 (a) In this Code and any regulation or directive adopted under it, “legal holiday”  
3 means:

4 (1) January 1, for New Year’s Day;

5 (2) (i) January 15, for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday; or

6 (ii) if the United States Congress designates another day for  
7 observance of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday, the day designated by the United  
8 States Congress;

9 (3) February 12, for Lincoln’s birthday;

10 (4) the third Monday in February, for Washington’s birthday;

11 (5) March 25, for Maryland Day;

12 (6) Good Friday;

13 (7) (i) May 30, for Memorial Day; or

14 (ii) if the United States Congress designates another day for  
15 observance of Memorial Day, the day designated by the United States Congress;

16 (8) June 19, for Juneteenth National Independence Day;

17 (9) July 4, for Independence Day;

18 (10) the first Monday in September, for Labor Day;

19 (11) September 12, for Defenders’ Day;

20 (12) (i) October 12, for Columbus Day; or

21 (ii) if the United States Congress designates another day for  
22 observance of Columbus Day, the day designated by the United States Congress;

23 **(13) NOVEMBER 1, FOR MARYLAND EMANCIPATION DAY;**

24 ~~[(13)]~~ **(14)** November 11, for Veterans’ Day;

25 ~~[(14)]~~ **(15)** the fourth Thursday in November, for Thanksgiving Day;

26 ~~[(15)]~~ **(16)** the Friday after Thanksgiving Day, for American Indian  
27 Heritage Day;

- 1            [(16)] (17) December 25, for Christmas Day;
- 2            [(17)] (18) each statewide general election day in the State; and
- 3            [(18)] (19) each other day that the President of the United States or the  
4 Governor designates for general cessation of business.

5            (b) Except as otherwise expressly provided in the Code, a legal holiday shall be  
6 observed on:

- 7            (1) the date specified in subsection (a) of this section; or
- 8            (2) if that date falls on a Sunday, on the next Monday after that date.

9 [7–420.

10            The Governor annually shall proclaim November 1 as Maryland Emancipation Day  
11 in recognition of the emancipation of the slaves in the State.]

## 12    Article – State Personnel and Pensions

13 9–201.

14            In this title, “employee holiday” includes:

- 15            (1) January 1, for New Year’s Day;
- 16            (2) January 15, for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday, unless the  
17 United States Congress designates another day for observance of that legal holiday, in  
18 which case, the day designated by the United States Congress;
- 19            (3) the third Monday in February, for Presidents’ Day;
- 20            (4) May 30, for Memorial Day, unless the United States Congress  
21 designates another day for observance of that legal holiday, in which case, the day  
22 designated by the United States Congress;
- 23            (5) June 19, for Juneteenth National Independence Day;
- 24            (6) July 4, for Independence Day;
- 25            (7) the first Monday in September, for Labor Day;
- 26            (8) October 12, for Columbus Day, unless the United States Congress  
27 designates another day for observance of that legal holiday, in which case, the day  
28 designated by the United States Congress;

1           **(9) NOVEMBER 1, FOR MARYLAND EMANCIPATION DAY;**

2           **[(9)] (10)** November 11, for Veterans' Day;

3           **[(10)] (11)** the fourth Thursday in November, for Thanksgiving Day;

4           **[(11)] (12)** the Friday after Thanksgiving Day, for American Indian  
5 Heritage Day;

6           **[(12)] (13)** December 25, for Christmas Day;

7           **[(13)] (14)** each statewide general election day in this State; and

8           **[(14)] (15)** each other day that the President of the United States or the  
9 Governor designates for general cessation of business.

10           SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
11 October 1, 2025.