

# SENATE BILL 397

P1

9lr2339  
CF 9lr3034

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By: **Senators Elfreth, Augustine, Bailey, Beidle, Benson, Carozza, Carter, Cassilly, Eckardt, Edwards, Ellis, Feldman, Ferguson, Gallion, Griffith, Guzzone, Hayes, Hershey, Hester, Hough, Jennings, Kagan, Kelley, King, Klausmeier, Kramer, Lam, Lee, McCray, Miller, Nathan–Pulliam, Patterson, Peters, Pinsky, Ready, Reilly, Rosapepe, Salling, Serafini, Simonaire, Smith, Waldstreicher, Washington, West, Young, Zirkin, and Zucker**

Introduced and read first time: January 31, 2019

Assigned to: Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **General Provisions – Commemorative Days – Freedom of the Press Day**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Governor annually to proclaim a certain day as Freedom  
4 of the Press Day to commemorate the protected right of free press as identified in  
5 the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America; and  
6 generally relating to Freedom of the Press Day.

7 BY renumbering

8 Article – General Provisions

9 Section 7–413 through 7–417, respectively

10 to be Section 7–414 through 7–418, respectively

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2014 Volume and 2018 Supplement)

13 BY adding to

14 Article – General Provisions

15 Section 7–413

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (2014 Volume and 2018 Supplement)

18 Preamble

19 WHEREAS, The Founding Fathers of the United States recognized the critical  
20 importance of a Free Press to the nation’s democracy through the inclusion of the Right to  
21 a Free Press in the First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States of America;  
22 and

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 WHEREAS, Other nations do not enjoy this right; and

2 WHEREAS, Members of the United States armed forces have given the ultimate  
3 sacrifice to protect this right; and

4 WHEREAS, This right is threatened in the United States and around the world by  
5 acts of violence and dangerous, irresponsible rhetoric; and

6 WHEREAS, We honor on June 28 the loss of the lives of Gerald Fischman, Rob  
7 Hiaasen, John McNamara, Rebecca Smith, and Wendi Winters of the Capital Gazette, who  
8 were murdered conducting work as journalists in Annapolis, Maryland; and

9 WHEREAS, The Annapolis community, Anne Arundel County, the State of  
10 Maryland, the United States of America, and citizens of the world mourn the loss of the  
11 lives of these journalists, as well as journalists both domestic and international, who have  
12 died in the line of duty; and

13 WHEREAS, The General Assembly of Maryland desires that June 28 be recognized  
14 as Freedom of the Press Day in Maryland to memorialize the lives lost on June 28, 2018,  
15 at the Capital Gazette offices and to honor and protect all journalists serving a vital role in  
16 our State's democratic process to inform residents of the happenings of their governments;  
17 now, therefore,

18 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,  
19 That Section(s) 7-413 through 7-417, respectively, of Article – General Provisions of the  
20 Annotated Code of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 7-414 through 7-418,  
21 respectively.

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

24 **Article – General Provisions**

25 **7-413.**

26 **THE GOVERNOR ANNUALLY SHALL PROCLAIM JUNE 28 AS FREEDOM OF THE**  
27 **PRESS DAY.**

28 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect June  
29 1, 2019.