

SENATE BILL 936

P1

11r2993

By: **Senator Jackson**

Introduced and read first time: February 10, 2021

Assigned to: Rules

A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **General Provisions – Commemorative Days – Overdose Awareness Day**

3 FOR the purpose of requiring the Governor annually to proclaim a certain day as Overdose
4 Awareness Day; requiring the Governor annually to order the State flag to be flown
5 at half-staff on Overdose Awareness Day; and generally relating to Overdose
6 Awareness Day.

7 BY renumbering

8 Article – General Provisions

9 Section 7–414 through 7–417, respectively

10 to be Section 7–415 through 7–418, respectively

11 Annotated Code of Maryland

12 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

13 BY adding to

14 Article – General Provisions

15 Section 7–414

16 Annotated Code of Maryland

17 (2019 Replacement Volume and 2020 Supplement)

18 Preamble

19 WHEREAS, Drug addiction is a chronic disease, characterized by compulsive or
20 difficult to control drug use despite harmful consequences; and

21 WHEREAS, Drug addiction is seen by both the Centers for Disease Control and
22 Prevention and the World Health Organization as a fast-growing epidemic that can all too
23 easily lead to overdose and death; and

24 WHEREAS, For every drug overdose that results in death, there are many more
25 nonfatal overdoses, each taking an emotional and economic toll on the individual, their

EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 family, and the community at large; and

2 WHEREAS, Drug addiction can fuel feelings of shame, guilt, embarrassment,
3 depression, and hopelessness, causing individuals to resist seeking treatment and support;
4 and

5 WHEREAS, Overdose Awareness Day is a global event held on August 31 each year
6 that aims to raise awareness of drug overdoses, reduce the stigma of a drug-related death,
7 and acknowledge the grief felt by families and friends remembering those who have died or
8 had a permanent injury as a result of a drug overdose; and

9 WHEREAS, Recognizing Overdose Awareness Day in Maryland sends a strong
10 message to former or current substance users, namely, that they are valued, and that
11 overdose death is preventable; now, therefore,

12 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF MARYLAND,
13 That Section(s) 7-414 through 7-417, respectively, of Article – General Provisions of the
14 Annotated Code of Maryland be renumbered to be Section(s) 7-415 through 7-418,
15 respectively.

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

18 **Article – General Provisions**

19 **7-414.**

20 **(A) THE GOVERNOR ANNUALLY SHALL PROCLAIM AUGUST 31 AS**
21 **OVERDOSE AWARENESS DAY.**

22 **(B) THE GOVERNOR ANNUALLY SHALL ORDER THE STATE FLAG TO BE**
23 **FLOWN AT HALF-STAFF ON AUGUST 31.**

24 SECTION 3. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect July
25 1, 2021.