

Department of Legislative Services  
Maryland General Assembly  
2026 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE  
First Reader

House Bill 217 (Delegate Stein, *et al.*)  
Government, Labor, and Elections

---

General Provisions - Commemorative Month - Maryland Native Plant Month

---

This bill requires the Governor to annually proclaim the month of May as Maryland Native Plant Month in recognition of the benefits that native plants have on Maryland’s natural environment. The proclamation must urge educational and environmental organizations and businesses to observe Maryland Native Plant Month properly with appropriate programs, events, and activities.

---

Fiscal Summary

**State Effect:** None. Commemorating Maryland Native Plant Month does not affect State finances.

**Local Effect:** None.

**Small Business Effect:** None.

---

Analysis

**Current Law:** Twenty official commemorative days, seven 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.

“Native plant” is a plant that occurs naturally in the State and surrounding region, ecosystem, and habitat, without direct or indirect human actions. This includes a plant that

was present before colonial settlement or is listed as native to the State on the Maryland Plant Atlas website.

---

### **Additional Information**

**Recent Prior Introductions:** Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See HB 368 of 2025.

**Designated Cross File:** SB 229 (Senators Brooks and Gile) - Education, Energy, and the Environment.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - February 23, 2026  
jg/jkb

---

Analysis by: Trevor S. Owen

Direct Inquiries to:  
(410) 946-5510  
(301) 970-5510

## Appendix – Official Commemorative Days and Months in Maryland

---

Asian Lunar New Year Day <sup>1</sup>	January/February
Maryland Holocaust Remembrance Day	January 27
Black History Month	February
Irish-American Heritage Month	March
Tuskegee Airmen Commemoration Day <sup>2</sup>	March
Women’s History Month	March
6888 <sup>th</sup> Central Postal Directory Battalion Day	March 9
Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day	March 30
Crime Victim and Advocate Commemorative Day	April 3
John Hanson’s Birthday <sup>3</sup>	April 13
National Healthcare Decisions Day	April 16
Maryland Centenarians Day <sup>4</sup>	May
Negro Baseball League Day <sup>5</sup>	May
Law Day U.S.A.	May 1
Fire, Rescue, and Emergency Services Workers Day <sup>6</sup>	June
Chesapeake Bay Awareness Week <sup>7</sup>	June
Maryland Charter Day	June 20
Thurgood Marshall Day	July 2
Caribbean Heritage Month	August
Hispanic Heritage Month <sup>8</sup>	September/October
Maryland Veterans Suicide Prevention Day	September 30
German-American Heritage Month	October
South Asian American Heritage Day	October 2
Dashain Day	October 5
Poetry Day	October 15
American Indian Heritage Month	November
Maryland Emancipation Day	November 1
Annapolis Charter Day	December 17

<sup>1</sup> Day designated as new year on the Asian lunar calendar.

<sup>2</sup> Commemorated on the fourth Thursday in March.

<sup>3</sup> John Hanson served as the first president of the Continental Congress under the Articles of Confederation from 1781 to 1782.

<sup>4</sup> Commemorated on the second Thursday in May.

<sup>5</sup> Commemorated on the second Saturday in May.

<sup>6</sup> Commemorated on the first Sunday in June.

<sup>7</sup> Commemorated during the second week in June.

<sup>8</sup> Commemorated from September 15 to October 15.

Source: Department of Legislative Services