

Preamble

WHEREAS, While Maryland celebrates Maryland Day on March 25 each year to commemorate the landing of the Ark and the Dove on St. Clement's Island in 1634, the official origin of the State began nearly 2 years before that date; and

WHEREAS, On June 20, 1632, King Charles I granted a charter for the "Maryland Colony" to Cecelius Calvert, the second Lord Baltimore; and

WHEREAS, On that day, Cecelius Calvert became the first Proprietor of the Colony of Maryland; and

WHEREAS, The Charter of Maryland established the boundaries of the Maryland Colony, granted authority for the settlers to use all available resources to provide for their livelihoods, authorized the settlers to establish a government, and granted authority for the establishment of economic trade in the Colony; and

WHEREAS, On November 22, 1633, the Ark and the Dove sailed for the New World with almost 200 settlers on board; and

WHEREAS, On March 25, 1634, the settlers celebrated their first mass on St. Clement's Island and established the province of Maryland; and

WHEREAS, The first settlement in the area of what is now Annapolis was established in 1649; and

WHEREAS, On December 17, 1708, the General Assembly adopted the Annapolis Charter; and

WHEREAS, Commemoration of the Charter of Maryland and the Annapolis Charter would enrich our understanding of Maryland's history; now, therefore,

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

Article - State Government

13-406.

THE GOVERNOR ANNUALLY SHALL PROCLAIM JUNE 20 AS MARYLAND CHARTER DAY.

13-407.