

the 4th day of July, called "Independence Day"; the 12th day of September, known as "Defenders' Day"; the second Monday in October, known as "Columbus Day"; the fourth Monday in October, known as "Veterans' Day"; the fourth Thursday in November, known as "Thanksgiving Day"; the 25th day of December, called "Christmas Day"; and all days of general and congressional elections throughout the State and all special days that may be appointed or recommended by the State and on all special days that may be appointed or recommended by the Governor of this State or the President of the United States, as days of thanksgiving or fasting and prayer, or other religious observance or for the general cessation of business, shall be regarded as legal holidays, and shall be duly observed as such, and shall for all purposes whatsoever as regards the presenting for payment or acceptance and of the protesting and giving notice of dishonor of bills of exchange, bank checks, drafts and promissory notes, to be treated and considered as the first day of the week, commonly called Sunday, and all such bills, drafts, checks, and notes presented for payment or acceptance on these said days, shall be deemed to be presented for acceptance or payment on the secular or business day next succeeding such holiday. [The 15th day of January of each and every year shall be proclaimed by the Governor as "Martin Luther King Day" and shall be a day of prayer in honor of Martin Luther King.] The 13th day of April of each and every year shall be proclaimed by the Governor as "John Hanson's Birthday" and be dedicated to the memory of the statesman, John Hanson. The Governor of this State shall have the power by proclamation to appoint a day or days for the general cessation of business in any one or more of the political subdivisions of the State, in case of emergency from fire, flood or otherwise, with the same legal consequences as hereinabove provided. In case of emergency from fire, flood, storm, snow, robbery, riot, or other cause of any kind whatsoever in any part of the State, the Governor shall have the further power by proclamation to appoint a day or days during which banking institutions (as defined in Article 11 of the Annotated Code of Maryland) within the area or areas designated in the proclamation may remain closed, in which case the appointed day or days shall be treated and considered as the first day of the week, commonly called Sunday, with the same legal consequences as hereinabove provided. If the emergency condition is confined to one or more particular banking institutions or branch offices, the proclamation shall be limited to the institutions or offices so designated. In the event an emergency condition arises and it is not practicable to obtain a proclamation prior to actual closing, the institutions so affected may, by the action of the chairman of the board of directors or the president of the institution, effect a closing; and such