

Second Regular Session  
Sixty-eighth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

**REENGROSSED**

*This Version Includes All Amendments  
Adopted in the House of Introduction*

LLS NO. 12-0539.01 Kate Meyer x4348

**HOUSE BILL 12-1040**

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**HOUSE SPONSORSHIP**

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**SENATE SPONSORSHIP**

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**House Committees**  
State, Veterans, & Military Affairs

**Senate Committees**

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**A BILL FOR AN ACT**

101 **CONCERNING RECOGNITION OF SEPTEMBER 11 AS A STATE HOLIDAY IN**  
102 **CERTAIN YEARS, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH,**  
103 **DESIGNATING SEPTEMBER 11 AS "PATRIOT DAY".**

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**Bill Summary**

*(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries>.)*

Each 10th and 25th anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11, 2001, is designated as a legal holiday in Colorado.

In all other years, the bill recognizes September 11, also known as "Patriot Day", as an optional holiday. In such years, a state agency may

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
*Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.*  
*Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.*

HOUSE  
3rd Reading Unamended  
February 29, 2012

HOUSE  
Amended 2nd Reading  
January 31, 2012

allow an employee to substitute Patriot Day for another legal holiday, but is required to remain open on September 11.

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1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly  
3 hereby finds and determines that:

4 (a) On September 11, 2001, terrorists hijacked four commercial  
5 airplanes in order to cause harm and destruction to the United States of  
6 America;

7 (b) On September 11, 2001, at 8:46 a.m. local time, terrorists  
8 crashed American Airlines Flight 11 into the North Tower of the World  
9 Trade Center in New York City; at 9:03 a.m., terrorists crashed United  
10 Airlines Flight 175 into the South Tower of the World Trade Center in  
11 New York City; at 9:37 a.m., terrorists crashed American Airlines Flight  
12 77 into the Pentagon near Washington, D.C.; and, at 10:03 a.m., United  
13 Airlines Flight 93 crashed in southwestern Pennsylvania after a struggle  
14 by passengers to regain control of the airplane from terrorists; and

15 (c) Following the attacks of September 11, 2001, Americans  
16 displayed bravery, honor, and compassion by uniting to sacrifice for and  
17 give generously to those in need.

18 (2) The general assembly also finds that:

19 (a) The service and sacrifice of the men and women of the United  
20 States armed forces, reserve forces, and National Guard and their families  
21 since September 11, 2001, are feats deserving of special recognition;

22 (b) Furthermore, the United States Navy unit commonly known  
23 as SEAL Team 6 has performed with uncommon valor, including in the  
24 2011 operation that resulted in the apprehension of Osama bin Laden, the  
25 architect of the September 11, 2001, tragedies; and

1 (c) The courageous efforts of first responders, including  
2 firefighters, police officers, and emergency personnel, who aided those  
3 in need following the tragedies of September 11, 2001, and who, since  
4 that time, continue to provide invaluable services across the United  
5 States, are also hereby noted.

6 (3) The general assembly hereby declares that, in honor of those  
7 who innocently lost their lives, in honor of those who sacrificed their  
8 lives to help others, in gratitude for the post-September 11, 2001,  
9 services, both domestically and abroad, provided by members of the  
10 military, their families, and first responders, and in recognition of its  
11 status as a pivotal day in our nation's history, September 11, commonly  
12 called "Patriot Day", should be periodically observed as a state holiday in  
13 the state of Colorado.


14 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-11-101, **amend**  
15 (1) as follows:

16 **24-11-101. Legal holidays - effect.** (1) The following days, viz:  
17 The first day of January, commonly called New Year's day; the third  
18 Monday in January, which shall be observed as the birthday of Dr. Martin  
19 Luther King, Jr.; the third Monday in February, commonly called  
20 Washington-Lincoln day; the last Monday in May, commonly called  
21 Memorial day; the fourth day of July, commonly called Independence  
22 day; the first Monday in September, commonly called Labor day; THE  
23 ELEVENTH DAY IN SEPTEMBER, COMMONLY CALLED PATRIOT DAY, IN  
24 THOSE YEARS AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 24-11-113 (2); the second  
25 Monday in October, commonly called Columbus day; the eleventh day of  
26 November, commonly called Veterans' day; the fourth Thursday in  
27 November, commonly called Thanksgiving day; the twenty-fifth day of

1 December, commonly called Christmas day; and any day appointed or  
2 recommended by the governor of this state or the president of the United  
3 States as a day of fasting or prayer or thanksgiving, are hereby declared  
4 to be legal holidays and shall, for all purposes whatsoever, as regards the  
5 presenting for payment or acceptance and the protesting and giving notice  
6 of the dishonor of bills of exchange, drafts, bank checks, promissory  
7 notes, or other negotiable instruments and also for the holding of courts,  
8 be treated and considered as is the first day of the week commonly called  
9 Sunday.

10 **SECTION 3.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 24-11-113 as  
11 follows:

12 **24-11-113. Patriot Day.** (1) THE ELEVENTH DAY OF SEPTEMBER  
13 IN EACH YEAR, THE SAME BEING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE TERRORIST  
14 ATTACKS ON THE UNITED STATES THAT OCCURRED ON SEPTEMBER 11,  
15 2001, SHALL BE KNOWN AS "PATRIOT DAY" AND APPROPRIATE  
16 OBSERVANCE MAY BE HELD BY THE PUBLIC AND IN ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS  
17 OF THE STATE IN HONOR OF THOSE WHO INNOCENTLY LOST THEIR LIVES  
18 AND THOSE WHO BRAVELY SACRIFICED THEIR LIVES TO HELP OTHERS AND  
19 IN RECOGNITION OF THE DAY'S IMPORTANCE IN THE HISTORY OF THE  
20 UNITED STATES.

21   
22 (2) A PATRIOT DAY OCCURRING ON THE FOLLOWING DATES IS A  
23 LEGAL HOLIDAY AS DESCRIBED IN SECTION 24-11-101:

24 (a) SEPTEMBER 11, 2021, AND SEPTEMBER 11 EVERY TEN YEARS  
25 THEREAFTER; AND

26 (b) SEPTEMBER 11, 2026, AND SEPTEMBER 11 EVERY TWENTY-FIVE  
27 YEARS THEREAFTER.

1           **SECTION 4. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act  
2 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the  
3 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August  
4 7, 2012, if adjournment sine die is on May 9, 2012); except that, if a  
5 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the  
6 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act  
7 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect  
8 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in  
9 November 2012 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the  
10 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.