

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2096 Session of 2019

INTRODUCED BY JOHNSON-HARRELL, YOUNGBLOOD, SCHLOSSBERG, KINSEY,
KOSIEROWSKI, SHUSTERMAN AND CEPHAS, DECEMBER 2, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, DECEMBER 2, 2019

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of May 31, 1893 (P.L.188, No.138), entitled "An
2 act designating the days and half days to be observed as
3 legal holidays, and for the payment, acceptance and
4 protesting of bills, notes, drafts, checks and other
5 negotiable paper on such days," further providing for the
6 designation of legal holidays.

7 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
8 hereby enacts as follows:

9 Section 1. Section 1 of the act of May 31, 1893 (P.L.188,
10 No.138), referred to as the Legal Holiday Law, is amended to
11 read:

12 Section 1. Be it enacted, &c., That the following days and
13 half days, namely: the first day of January, commonly called New
14 Year's Day, the third Monday of January, known as Dr. Martin
15 Luther King, Jr. Day, the third Monday of February, known as
16 Presidents' Day, Good Friday, the thirteenth or fourteenth day
17 of April, known as Vaisakhi, the first day of the full moon in
18 May, known as Vesak, the last Monday in May, known as Memorial
19 Day, the first day of the lunar month of Shawwal, known as Eid
20 al-Fitr, the fourteenth day of June, known as Flag Day, the

1 fourth of July, called Independence Day, the first Monday of
2 September, known as Labor Day, Yom Kippur, the second Monday in
3 October, known as Columbus Day, the third day of the Diwali
4 Festival, which generally falls between mid-October and mid-
5 November and which marks the new moon day known as Amavasya, the
6 first Tuesday after the first Monday of November, Election Day,
7 the eleventh day of November, known as Veterans' Day, the fourth
8 Thursday in November, known as Thanksgiving Day, the twenty-
9 fifth day of December, known as Christmas Day, the twenty-sixth
10 day of December, which is the first day of the observance of
11 Kwanzaa; and every Saturday, after twelve o'clock noon until
12 twelve o'clock midnight, each of which Saturdays is hereby
13 designated a half holiday; and any day appointed or recommended
14 by the Governor of this State or the President of the United
15 States as a day of thanksgiving or fastings and prayer, or other
16 religious observance; and in the event of a financial crisis in
17 the State or Nation, any day or days appointed by the Governor
18 of this State or the President of the United States as a bank
19 holiday; and in the event of public calamity in any part of the
20 State through fire, flood, famine, violence, riot, insurrection,
21 or enemy action, any day or days appointed by the Governor of
22 this State as a bank holiday for banking institutions affected
23 by such public calamity shall, for all purposes whatever as
24 regards the presenting for payment or acceptance, and as regards
25 the protesting and giving notice of the dishonor of bills of
26 exchange, checks, drafts, and promissory notes, made after the
27 passage of this act, be treated and considered as the first day
28 of the week, commonly called Sunday, and as public holidays and
29 half holidays; and all such bills, checks, drafts, and notes
30 otherwise presentable for acceptance or payment on any of the

1 said days, shall be deemed to be payable and be presentable for
2 acceptance or payment on the secular or business day next
3 succeeding such holiday or half holiday; except checks, drafts,
4 bills of exchange, and promissory notes, payable at sight or on
5 demand, which would otherwise be payable on any half holiday
6 Saturday, shall be deemed to be payable at or before twelve
7 o'clock noon of such half holiday: Provided, however, That for
8 the purpose of protesting or otherwise holding liable any party
9 to any bill of exchange, check, draft, or promissory note, and
10 which shall not have been paid before twelve o'clock noon of any
11 Saturday designated a half holiday as aforesaid, a demand for
12 acceptance or payment thereof shall not be made, and notice of
13 protest or dishonor thereof shall not be given, until the next
14 succeeding secular or business day: And provided further, That
15 when any person, firm, corporation or company shall, on any
16 Saturday designated a half holiday, receive for collection any
17 check, bill of exchange, draft, or promissory note, such person,
18 firm, corporation, or company shall not be deemed guilty of any
19 neglect or omission of duty, nor incur any liability, in not
20 presenting for payment or acceptance or collection such check,
21 bill of exchange, draft or promissory note, on that day: And
22 provided further, That, in construing this section, every
23 Saturday designated a half holiday shall, until twelve o'clock
24 noon, be deemed a secular or business day; and the days and half
25 days aforesaid, so designated as holidays and half holidays,
26 shall be considered as public holidays and half holidays for all
27 purposes whatsoever as regards the transaction of business,
28 except that any day or days appointed as a bank holiday shall be
29 regarded as secular or business days for all other purposes than
30 those mentioned in this act: And provided further, That nothing

1 herein contained shall be construed to prevent or invalidate the
2 entry, issuance, service, or execution of any writ, summons,
3 confession of judgment, or other legal process whatever, on any
4 of the holidays or half holidays herein designated as holidays;
5 nor to prevent any banking institution from keeping its doors
6 open or transacting its business, on any Saturday afternoon, if
7 by a vote of its directors it shall elect to do so, unless such
8 Saturday is appointed as a bank holiday under the provisions of
9 this act: And provided further, That any banking institution
10 may, by a vote of its directors, or in the case of a private
11 bank by action of the private banker or bankers, notice of which
12 shall have been posted in its banking house for not less than
13 fifteen days before the taking effect thereof, observe any
14 Saturday throughout the year as a full holiday with like effect
15 hereunder as though such day had been designated as a full
16 holiday by the provisions of this act, and may in the same
17 manner, observe as a full holiday any Monday next following the
18 first day of January, the fourth day of July or the twenty-fifth
19 day of December whenever any of such holidays shall occur on a
20 Saturday with like effect hereunder as though such day had been
21 designated as a full holiday by the provisions of this act.

22 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.