
HOUSE BILL 2267

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By Representatives Sawyer, Stambaugh, Stonier, Valdez, Slatter, Ormsby, Senn, and Robinson

Prefiled 12/05/17.

1 AN ACT Relating to recognition of indigenous peoples' day;
2 amending RCW 1.16.050; and creating a new section.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the state
5 recognizes the twelfth of October as Columbus Day to commemorate
6 Christopher Columbus' arrival in the Americas in the year 1492.
7 Columbus Day is also celebrated as a federal holiday. The observance
8 of the official beginning of European colonization on this continent
9 has overlooked the tragic historical legacy of the European encounter
10 with indigenous peoples, including genocide, slavery, and the
11 confiscation of lands and resources. Columbus himself is known to
12 have participated in the theft, enslavement, and murder of the
13 indigenous people he encountered.

14 The legislature further finds that despite the conflict and
15 tragedy brought along with European colonization, the indigenous
16 people have maintained their identity and culture and have
17 contributed much to the progress and development of the nation. In
18 particular, Native American tribes have made invaluable contributions
19 to the diversity, culture, and economy of the state of Washington.

20 The legislature further finds that the recognition of Columbus
21 Day diminishes the crimes committed against indigenous people during

1 the colonial period and the continued struggle of Native people to
2 survive in the legacy of colonization. The legislature therefore
3 resolves to honor the sacrifice, perseverance, and value of the
4 Native American people as the original and enduring people of this
5 continent by renaming Columbus Day as indigenous peoples' day.

6 **Sec. 2.** RCW 1.16.050 and 2016 c 9 s 2 are each amended to read
7 as follows:

8 (1) The following are state legal holidays:

9 (a) Sunday;

10 (b) The first day of January, commonly called New Year's Day;

11 (c) The third Monday of January, celebrated as the anniversary of
12 the birth of Martin Luther King, Jr.;

13 (d) The third Monday of February, to be known as Presidents' Day
14 and celebrated as the anniversary of the births of Abraham Lincoln
15 and George Washington;

16 (e) The last Monday of May, commonly known as Memorial Day;

17 (f) The fourth day of July, the anniversary of the Declaration of
18 Independence;

19 (g) The first Monday in September, to be known as Labor Day;

20 (h) The eleventh day of November, to be known as Veterans' Day;

21 (i) The fourth Thursday in November, to be known as Thanksgiving
22 Day;

23 (j) The Friday immediately following the fourth Thursday in
24 November, to be known as Native American Heritage Day; and

25 (k) The twenty-fifth day of December, commonly called Christmas
26 Day.

27 (2) Employees of the state and its political subdivisions, except
28 employees of school districts and except those nonclassified
29 employees of institutions of higher education who hold appointments
30 or are employed under contracts to perform services for periods of
31 less than twelve consecutive months, are entitled to one paid holiday
32 per calendar year in addition to those specified in this section.
33 Each employee of the state or its political subdivisions may select
34 the day on which the employee desires to take the additional holiday
35 provided for in this section after consultation with the employer
36 pursuant to guidelines to be promulgated by rule of the appropriate
37 personnel authority, or in the case of local government by ordinance
38 or resolution of the legislative authority.

1 (3) Employees of the state and its political subdivisions,
2 including employees of school districts and those nonclassified
3 employees of institutions of higher education who hold appointments
4 or are employed under contracts to perform services for periods of
5 less than twelve consecutive months, are entitled to two unpaid
6 holidays per calendar year for a reason of faith or conscience or an
7 organized activity conducted under the auspices of a religious
8 denomination, church, or religious organization. This includes
9 employees of public institutions of higher education, including
10 community colleges, technical colleges, and workforce training
11 programs. The employee may select the days on which the employee
12 desires to take the two unpaid holidays after consultation with the
13 employer pursuant to guidelines to be promulgated by rule of the
14 appropriate personnel authority, or in the case of local government
15 by ordinance or resolution of the legislative authority. If an
16 employee prefers to take the two unpaid holidays on specific days for
17 a reason of faith or conscience, or an organized activity conducted
18 under the auspices of a religious denomination, church, or religious
19 organization, the employer must allow the employee to do so unless
20 the employee's absence would impose an undue hardship on the employer
21 or the employee is necessary to maintain public safety. Undue
22 hardship shall have the meaning established in rule by the office of
23 financial management under RCW 43.41.109.

24 (4) If any of the state legal holidays specified in this section
25 are also federal legal holidays but observed on different dates, only
26 the state legal holidays are recognized as a paid legal holiday for
27 employees of the state and its political subdivisions. However, for
28 port districts and the law enforcement and public transit employees
29 of municipal corporations, either the federal or the state legal
30 holiday is recognized as a paid legal holiday, but in no case may
31 both holidays be recognized as a paid legal holiday for employees.

32 (5) Whenever any state legal holiday:

33 (a) Other than Sunday, falls upon a Sunday, the following Monday
34 is the legal holiday; or

35 (b) Falls upon a Saturday, the preceding Friday is the legal
36 holiday.

37 (6) Nothing in this section may be construed to have the effect
38 of adding or deleting the number of paid holidays provided for in an
39 agreement between employees and employers of political subdivisions

1 of the state or as established by ordinance or resolution of the
2 local government legislative authority.

3 (7) The legislature declares that the following days are
4 recognized as provided in this subsection, but may not be considered
5 legal holidays for any purpose:

6 (a) The thirteenth day of January, recognized as Korean-American
7 day;

8 (b) The twelfth day of October, recognized as ((Columbus))
9 indigenous peoples' day;

10 (c) The ninth day of April, recognized as former prisoner of war
11 recognition day;

12 (d) The twenty-sixth day of January, recognized as Washington
13 army and air national guard day;

14 (e) The seventh day of August, recognized as purple heart
15 recipient recognition day;

16 (f) The second Sunday in October, recognized as Washington state
17 children's day;

18 (g) The sixteenth day of April, recognized as Mother Joseph day;

19 (h) The fourth day of September, recognized as Marcus Whitman
20 day;

21 (i) The seventh day of December, recognized as Pearl Harbor
22 remembrance day;

23 (j) The twenty-seventh day of July, recognized as national Korean
24 war veterans armistice day;

25 (k) The nineteenth day of February, recognized as civil liberties
26 day of remembrance;

27 (l) The nineteenth day of June, recognized as Juneteenth, a day
28 of remembrance for the day the slaves learned of their freedom;

29 (m) The thirtieth day of March, recognized as welcome home
30 Vietnam veterans day; and

31 (n) The eleventh day of January, recognized as human trafficking
32 awareness day.

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