

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2011 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE

House Bill 186
Ways and Means

(Delegate Branch, *et al.*)
Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs

Education - Public School Holidays - American Indian Heritage Day

This bill designates an existing public school holiday that occurs on the Friday after Thanksgiving Day as American Indian Heritage Day.

The bill takes effect July 1, 2011.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None.

Local Effect: None. Designating the Friday after Thanksgiving Day as American Indian Heritage Day does not alter the number of days that the State already has declared as public school holidays.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: The State has designated several days as public school holidays. They include the following:

- Thanksgiving Day and the day after;
- Christmas Eve through January 1;
- Martin Luther King, Jr. Day;
- Presidents' Day;
- Good Friday and Easter Monday;

- Memorial Day; and
- primary and general election days for most counties.

Background: In 1990, President George H.W. Bush approved a Joint Resolution of Congress designating November as National American Indian Heritage Month, a designation that has since been made each year since 1994.

Chapter 486 of 2008 designated the Friday after Thanksgiving Day as American Indian Heritage Day and added the day to the list of State legal and employee holidays. Since the Friday after Thanksgiving was already a State employee holiday, the designation did not affect State personnel expenditures.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Maryland State Department of Education, Department of Legislative Services

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mm/mwc

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