

# HOUSE BILL 83

P1

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By: **Delegates Branch, Barve, and Proctor**  
Introduced and read first time: January 11, 2008  
Assigned to: Health and Government Operations

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## A BILL ENTITLED

1 AN ACT concerning

2 **State Holiday – American Indian Heritage Day**

3 FOR the purpose of making a certain date a legal State holiday named American  
4 Indian Heritage Day; providing that a certain paid holiday for State employees  
5 is for American Indian Heritage Day; and generally relating to making  
6 American Indian Heritage Day a holiday in the State.

7 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
8 Article 1 – Rules of Interpretation  
9 Section 27  
10 Annotated Code of Maryland  
11 (2005 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

12 BY repealing and reenacting, with amendments,  
13 Article – State Personnel and Pensions  
14 Section 9–201  
15 Annotated Code of Maryland  
16 (2004 Replacement Volume and 2007 Supplement)

17 Preamble

18 WHEREAS, Former President George H. W. Bush approved a Joint Resolution  
19 of Congress designating November 1990 “National American Indian Heritage Month”;  
20 and

21 WHEREAS, Similar proclamations have been issued each year since 1994; and

22 WHEREAS, On November 13, 2007, the United States House of  
23 Representatives unanimously passed legislation introduced by Representative Joe  
24 Baca that encourages the designation of the Friday after Thanksgiving Day as Native

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EXPLANATION: CAPITALS INDICATE MATTER ADDED TO EXISTING LAW.

[Brackets] indicate matter deleted from existing law.



1 American Heritage Day to pay tribute to Native Americans for their many  
2 contributions to the United States; and

3 WHEREAS, A day honoring American Indian heritage is supported by 184  
4 federally recognized Native American tribes throughout the United States; and

5 WHEREAS, The State should honor the rich cultural heritage, proud history,  
6 and vital contributions of American Indians by recognizing American Indian Heritage  
7 Day on the Friday after Thanksgiving Day; now, therefore,

8 SECTION 1. BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF  
9 MARYLAND, That the Laws of Maryland read as follows:

10 **Article 1 – Rules of Interpretation**

11 27.

12 (a) In this Code and any rule, regulation, or directive adopted under it, “legal  
13 holiday” means:

14 (1) January 1, for New Year’s Day;

15 (2) January 15, for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.’s birthday, unless the  
16 United States Congress designates another day for observance of that legal holiday, in  
17 which case, the day designated by the United States Congress;

18 (3) February 12, for Lincoln’s birthday;

19 (4) The third Monday in February, for Washington’s birthday;

20 (5) March 25, for Maryland Day;

21 (6) Good Friday;

22 (7) May 30, for Memorial Day, unless the United States Congress  
23 designates another day for observance of that legal holiday, in which case, the day  
24 designated by the United States Congress;

25 (8) July 4, for Independence Day;

26 (9) The first Monday in September, for Labor Day;

27 (10) September 12, for Defenders’ Day;

28 (11) October 12, for Columbus Day, unless the United States Congress  
29 designates another day for observance of that legal holiday, in which case, the day  
30 designated by the United States Congress;



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- 1                   (8)    November 11, for Veterans' Day;
- 2                   (9)    the fourth Thursday in November, for Thanksgiving Day;
- 3                   (10) the Friday after Thanksgiving Day, **FOR AMERICAN INDIAN**  
4 **HERITAGE DAY**;
- 5                   (11) December 25, for Christmas Day;
- 6                   (12) each statewide general election day in this State; and
- 7                   (13) each other day that the President of the United States or the  
8 Governor designates for general cessation of business.

9                   SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect  
10 October 1, 2008.