CHAPTER 486

(House Bill 83)

AN ACT concerning

State Holiday – American Indian Heritage Day

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

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

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

Preamble

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

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

WHEREAS, On November 13, 2007, the United States House of Representatives unanimously passed legislation introduced by Representative Joe Baca that encourages the designation of the Friday after Thanksgiving Day as Native American Heritage Day to pay tribute to Native Americans for their many contributions to the United States; and

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

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

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

Article 1 – Rules of Interpretation

27.

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

(1) January 1, for New Year's Day;

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

(3) February 12, for Lincoln's birthday;

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

(5) March 25, for Maryland Day;

(6) Good Friday;

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

(8) July 4, for Independence Day;

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

(10) September 12, for Defenders' Day;

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

(12) November 11, for Veterans' Day;

(13) The fourth Thursday in November, for Thanksgiving Day;

(14) THE FRIDAY AFTER THANKSGIVING DAY, FOR AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE DAY;

[(14)] (15) December 25, for Christmas Day;

[(15)] (16) Each statewide general election day in this State; and

[(16)] (17) Each other day that the President of the United States or the Governor designates for general cessation of business.

(b) Except as otherwise expressly provided in this Code, a legal holiday shall be observed on:

(1) The date specified in subsection (a) of this section for the legal holiday; and

(2) If that date falls on a Sunday, on the next Monday after that date.

Article – State Personnel and Pensions

9–201.

In this title, "employee holiday" includes:

(1) January 1, for New Year's Day;

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

(3) the third Monday in February, for Presidents' Day;

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

(5) July 4, for Independence Day;

(6) the first Monday in September, for Labor Day;

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

(8) November 11, for Veterans' Day;

(9) the fourth Thursday in November, for Thanksgiving Day;

(10)   the Friday after Thanksgiving Day**, FOR AMERICAN INDIAN HERITAGE DAY**;

(11)   December 25, for Christmas Day;

(12)   each statewide general election day in this State; and

(13)   each other day that the President of the United States or the Governor designates for general cessation of business.

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

Approved by the Governor, May 13, 2008.