

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2020 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 895 (Delegate W. Fisher, *et al.*)
Health and Government Operations

Indigenous Peoples' Day - Rule of Interpretation and Replacement of Columbus Day

This bill replaces Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples' Day. The bill also makes confirming changes.

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: None. The bill does not substantively change State activities or operations.

Local Effect: Local school systems can devote a part of the school day to appropriate exercises that relate to Indigenous Peoples' Day using existing resources. Revenues are not affected.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law: State public schools must devote a part of the day to appropriate exercises for the following days: Washington's Birthday; Lincoln's Birthday; Veterans' Day; Columbus Day; Arbor Day; and any other day of national significance. The State recognizes 11 bank holidays, 16 legal holidays, and 12 State employee holidays, as identified in **Exhibit 1**. This includes Columbus Day.

Chapter 486 of 2008 designated the Friday after Thanksgiving as American Indian Heritage Day and added it to the list of State legal and employee holidays.

Exhibit 1
Holidays in the State

	<u>School Holiday</u>	<u>Bank Holiday</u>	<u>Legal Holiday</u>	<u>State Employee Holiday</u>
New Year's Day	X	X	X	X
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday	X	X	X	X
February 12 for Lincoln's Birthday			X	
Washington's Birthday*	X	X	X	X
March 25 for Maryland Day			X	
Good Friday	X	X	X	
Easter Monday	X			
Memorial Day	X	X	X	X
Independence Day		X	X	X
Labor Day		X	X	X
September 12 for Defenders' Day			X	
Columbus Day		X	X	X
General Election Days	X		X	X
Veterans' Day		X	X	X
Thanksgiving Day	X	X	X	X
Day after Thanksgiving Day**	X		X	X
Christmas Day	X	X	X	X

*Also known as Presidents' Day, celebrated on the third Monday of February.

**Also known as American Indian Heritage Day.

Note: Christmas Eve through New Year's Day are public school holidays, along with primary election days.

Source: Department of Legislative Services

Background: In 1989, South Dakota was the first state to replace Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples' Day. The Pew Research Center reports that, as of October 2019, 12 states and Washington, DC have renamed Columbus Day to honor indigenous peoples. In addition, three states (Maine, New Mexico, and South Dakota) and Washington, DC give government workers the second Monday of October off as a paid holiday called Indigenous Peoples' Day or Native Americans' Day.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): National Public Radio; Pew Research Center; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 9, 2020
an/jc

Analysis by: Thomas S. Elder

Direct Inquiries to:
(410) 946-5510
(301) 970-5510