

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2024 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 179 (Delegate J. Lewis)
Health and Government Operations

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

This bill replaces Columbus Day with Indigenous Peoples' Day. Indigenous Peoples' Day must be observed on October 12, or the day designated by the U.S. Congress for the observance of Columbus Day. The bill also makes conforming 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 at least one day to appropriate exercises for each of the following: Washington's Birthday; Lincoln's Birthday; Veterans' Day; Columbus Day; Arbor Day; Black History Month, as specified; and any other day of national significance. The State recognizes 11 bank holidays, 17 legal holidays, and 13 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. Juneteenth National Independence Day was designated a federal holiday in June 2021; it is also a State legal and employee holiday.

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 |
| Juneteenth National Independence Day | | | 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.

** As there is no corresponding federal holiday, a banking institution may remain open.

*** 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

Additional Information

Recent Prior Introductions: Similar legislation has been introduced within the last three years. See HB 446 of 2023; HB 565 of 2022; and SB 421 and HB 157 of 2021.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Anne Arundel County Public Schools; St. Mary's County Public Schools; Department of Legislative Services

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rh/jc

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