

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2017 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Joint Resolution 1 (Delegate McKay)
Rules and Executive Nominations

National Day of the Cowboy

This joint resolution urges the U.S. Congress to annually designate the fourth Saturday in July as the “National Day of the Cowboy.”

Fiscal Summary

State Effect: The joint resolution does not affect State operations or finances.

Local Effect: None.

Small Business Effect: None.

Analysis

Current Law/Background: As noted in the preamble, pioneering men and women known as cowboys helped establish America’s frontiers. The cowboy archetype transcends gender, generations, ethnicity, geographic boundaries, and political affiliations. According to the preamble, the cowboy exemplifies a number of qualities including patriotism and honesty.

According to the joint resolution’s preamble, cowboy and ranching traditions have been part of the American landscape and culture since 1523, and today’s cowboys and cowgirls continue to strive to preserve and perpetuate this unique element of America’s heritage. The cowboy and horse are central figures in literature, art, film, poetry, photography, and music. The preamble goes on to state that the cowboy has become a true American icon occupying a central place in the public’s imagination.

According to the [National Day of the Cowboy organization](#), in 2008, Arizona was the first state to pass a resolution urging the U.S. Congress to permanently designate the fourth Saturday in July as “National Day of the Cowboy.” In 2009, the resolution passed in New York, Texas, Oklahoma, Kansas, and Arizona. Legislation was introduced in the U.S. Senate in 2005, 2006, and 2007 to set aside a day to celebrate the contribution of the cowboy and cowgirl to America’s culture and heritage. In 2008, legislation passed in the U.S. Senate and House concurrently, naming Saturday, July 26, 2008, as the Fourth Annual National Day of the Cowboy. National Day of the Cowboy has also been proclaimed by a number of governors, mayors, and town councils.

Additional Information

Prior Introductions: None.

Cross File: SJ 1 (Senator Edwards) – Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

Information Source(s): National Day of the Cowboy; Department of Legislative Services

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mm/lgc

Analysis by: Caroline L. Boice

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