

**Department of Legislative Services**  
Maryland General Assembly  
2021 Session

**FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE**  
**First Reader**

House Bill 157 (Delegate W. Fisher)  
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

---

**Additional Information**

**Prior Introductions:** HB 895 of 2020 received a hearing in the House Health and Government Operations Committee, but no further action was taken.

**Designated Cross File:** SB 421 (Senator Patterson) - Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs.

**Information Source(s):** Department of Legislative Services

**Fiscal Note History:** First Reader - March 4, 2021  
an/jc

---

Analysis by: Thomas S. Elder

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