

Department of Legislative Services
Maryland General Assembly
2022 Session

FISCAL AND POLICY NOTE
First Reader

House Bill 565 (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. 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 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 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 and is provided as a State 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 |
| 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 157 of 2021 received a hearing in the House Health and Government Operations Committee, but no further action was taken. Its cross file, SB 421, received an unfavorable report from the Senate Education, Health, and Environmental Affairs Committee. HB 895 of 2020 received a hearing in the House Health and Government Operations Committee, but no further action was taken.

Designated Cross File: None.

Information Source(s): Baltimore City Public Schools; Prince George's County Public Schools; Library of Congress; Department of Legislative Services

Fiscal Note History: First Reader - March 11, 2022
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