1   H.509

2   Introduced by Representatives Kornheiser of Brattleboro, Cina of Burlington,

3   Colburn of Burlington, and Hooper of Burlington

4   Referred to Committee on

5   Date:

6   Subject: General provisions; legal holidays; Election Day

7   Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to designate

8   Election Day as a State holiday.

9   An act relating to designating Election Day as a State holiday

10   It is hereby enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Vermont:

11   Sec. 1. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS

12   (a) Voting is a fundamental right enshrined in Amendment XV to the

13   United States Constitution and protected in the Voting Rights Act of 1965

14   (Pub. L No. 89-10) and its amendments.

15   (b) Chapter II, Section 43 of the Vermont Constitution provides that

16   statewide officers, members of the General Assembly, and various county

17   officers "shall be elected biennially on the first Tuesday next after the first

18   Monday of November."

19   (c) Although the 55 to 58 percent of registered Vermont voters who voted

20   in the 2018 general election was possibly a nonpresidential election year State

1   record, over 40 percent of registered voters failed to vote, and this figure does

2   not account for those persons who never registered to vote.

3   (d) Same-day voter registration and extensive early voting time periods

4   facilitate greater access to voting for Vermonters than for voters in most states,

5   but more efforts are needed to raise the percentage of Vermonters who exercise

6   their right to vote.

7   (e) Designation of Election Day as an official holiday, as is Town Meeting

8   Day in Vermont, could encourage and facilitate more Vermonters exercising

9   their right to vote.

10   Sec. 2. 1 V.S.A. § 371 is amended to read:

11   § 371. LEGAL HOLIDAYS

12   (a) The following shall be legal holidays:

13   (1) New Year's Day, January 1;

14   (2) Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday, the third Monday in January;

15   (3) Presidents' Day, the third Monday in February;

16   (4) Town Meeting Day, the first Tuesday in March;

17   (5) Memorial Day, the last Monday in May;

18   (6) Independence Day, July 4;

19   (7) Bennington Battle Day, August 16;

20   (8) Labor Day, the first Monday in September;

21   (9) Columbus Day, the second Monday in October;

1   (10) Election Day, the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November

2   biennially in even numbered years;

3   (11) Veterans' Day, November 11;

4   (12) Thanksgiving Day, the fourth Thursday in November;

5   (13) Christmas Day, December 25.

6   * * *

7   Sec. 3. 8 V.S.A. § 11201 is amended to read:

8   § 11201. BUSINESS DAYS

9   (a)(1) For purposes of this title, unless otherwise provided under other state

10   or federal law applicable to a Vermont or state financial institution which that

11   is a depository institution, a business day is a calendar day other than the

12   following:

13   (A) Saturday and Sunday;

14   January 1, New Year's Day;

15   The 3rd the third Monday in January, Martin Luther King, Jr. Day;

16   February 12, Lincoln's birthday;

17   The 3rd the third Monday in February, President's Day;

18   The first Tuesday in March, Town Meeting Day;

19   The last Monday in May, Memorial Day, but if the United States

20   government designates May 30 as the date of observance of Memorial Day,

21   then May 30;

1   ~~July 4, Independence Day;~~

2   ~~August 16, Bennington Battle Day;~~

3   ~~The first Monday in September, Labor Day;~~

4   ~~The 2nd the second Monday in October, Columbus Day~~

5   ~~November 11, Veterans' Day;~~

6   ~~The 4th the fourth Thursday in November, Thanksgiving Day; and~~

7   ~~December 25, Christmas Day.~~

8   (B) New Year's Day, January 1;

9   (C) Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday, the third Monday in January;

10   (D) President's Day, the third Monday in February;

11   (E) Town Meeting Day, the first Tuesday in March;

12   (F) Memorial Day, the last Monday in May;

13   (G) Independence Day, July 4;

14   (H) Bennington Battle Day, August 16;

15   (I) Labor Day, the first Monday in September;

16   (J) Columbus Day, the second Monday in October;

17   (K) Veterans' Day, November 11;

18   (L) Thanksgiving Day, the fourth Thursday in November;

19   (M) Christmas Day, December 25.

1   (2) A legal holiday ~~which~~ that falls on a Saturday may be observed on

2   the preceding Friday, and a legal holiday ~~which~~ that falls on a Sunday may be

3   observed on the following Monday.

4   * * *

5   Sec. 4. EFFECTIVE DATE

6   This act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.