
HOUSE BILL 2056

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2017 Regular Session

By Representatives Peterson, Lovick, Dolan, Doglio, Farrell, Ortiz-Self, Frame, Sells, and Stanford

1 AN ACT Relating to recognizing the final Saturday of September as
2 public lands day; amending RCW 1.16.050; and creating a new section.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the public
5 lands managed by federal, state, and local governments are one of the
6 state's finest and most remarkable attributes. Public lands directly
7 help power the economy of the state, through the multibillion dollar
8 outdoor recreation economy, and working forests, aquatic lands, and
9 other resources that are being sustainably managed for public
10 benefit. The excellence and pervasiveness of public lands in
11 Washington are also integral to making it an attractive place for
12 people to live, work, and play. Therefore, it is the intent of the
13 legislature to recognize and celebrate the incredible value of
14 preserving and protecting the public lands in Washington by
15 designating the final Saturday in September as public lands day.

16 **Sec. 2.** RCW 1.16.050 and 2016 c 9 s 2 are each amended to read
17 as follows:

18 (1) The following are state legal holidays:

19 (a) Sunday;

20 (b) The first day of January, commonly called New Year's Day;

1 (c) The third Monday of January, celebrated as the anniversary of
2 the birth of Martin Luther King, Jr.;

3 (d) The third Monday of February, to be known as Presidents' Day
4 and celebrated as the anniversary of the births of Abraham Lincoln
5 and George Washington;

6 (e) The last Monday of May, commonly known as Memorial Day;

7 (f) The fourth day of July, the anniversary of the Declaration of
8 Independence;

9 (g) The first Monday in September, to be known as Labor Day;

10 (h) The eleventh day of November, to be known as Veterans' Day;

11 (i) The fourth Thursday in November, to be known as Thanksgiving
12 Day;

13 (j) The Friday immediately following the fourth Thursday in
14 November, to be known as Native American Heritage Day; and

15 (k) The twenty-fifth day of December, commonly called Christmas
16 Day.

17 (2) Employees of the state and its political subdivisions, except
18 employees of school districts and except those nonclassified
19 employees of institutions of higher education who hold appointments
20 or are employed under contracts to perform services for periods of
21 less than twelve consecutive months, are entitled to one paid holiday
22 per calendar year in addition to those specified in this section.
23 Each employee of the state or its political subdivisions may select
24 the day on which the employee desires to take the additional holiday
25 provided for in this section after consultation with the employer
26 pursuant to guidelines to be promulgated by rule of the appropriate
27 personnel authority, or in the case of local government by ordinance
28 or resolution of the legislative authority.

29 (3) Employees of the state and its political subdivisions,
30 including employees of school districts and those nonclassified
31 employees of institutions of higher education who hold appointments
32 or are employed under contracts to perform services for periods of
33 less than twelve consecutive months, are entitled to two unpaid
34 holidays per calendar year for a reason of faith or conscience or an
35 organized activity conducted under the auspices of a religious
36 denomination, church, or religious organization. This includes
37 employees of public institutions of higher education, including
38 community colleges, technical colleges, and workforce training
39 programs. The employee may select the days on which the employee
40 desires to take the two unpaid holidays after consultation with the

1 employer pursuant to guidelines to be promulgated by rule of the
2 appropriate personnel authority, or in the case of local government
3 by ordinance or resolution of the legislative authority. If an
4 employee prefers to take the two unpaid holidays on specific days for
5 a reason of faith or conscience, or an organized activity conducted
6 under the auspices of a religious denomination, church, or religious
7 organization, the employer must allow the employee to do so unless
8 the employee's absence would impose an undue hardship on the employer
9 or the employee is necessary to maintain public safety. Undue
10 hardship shall have the meaning established in rule by the office of
11 financial management under RCW 43.41.109.

12 (4) If any of the state legal holidays specified in this section
13 are also federal legal holidays but observed on different dates, only
14 the state legal holidays are recognized as a paid legal holiday for
15 employees of the state and its political subdivisions. However, for
16 port districts and the law enforcement and public transit employees
17 of municipal corporations, either the federal or the state legal
18 holiday is recognized as a paid legal holiday, but in no case may
19 both holidays be recognized as a paid legal holiday for employees.

20 (5) Whenever any state legal holiday:

21 (a) Other than Sunday, falls upon a Sunday, the following Monday
22 is the legal holiday; or

23 (b) Falls upon a Saturday, the preceding Friday is the legal
24 holiday.

25 (6) Nothing in this section may be construed to have the effect
26 of adding or deleting the number of paid holidays provided for in an
27 agreement between employees and employers of political subdivisions
28 of the state or as established by ordinance or resolution of the
29 local government legislative authority.

30 (7) The legislature declares that the following days are
31 recognized as provided in this subsection, but may not be considered
32 legal holidays for any purpose:

33 (a) The thirteenth day of January, recognized as Korean-American
34 day;

35 (b) The twelfth day of October, recognized as Columbus day;

36 (c) The ninth day of April, recognized as former prisoner of war
37 recognition day;

38 (d) The twenty-sixth day of January, recognized as Washington
39 army and air national guard day;

1 (e) The seventh day of August, recognized as purple heart
2 recipient recognition day;
3 (f) The second Sunday in October, recognized as Washington state
4 children's day;
5 (g) The sixteenth day of April, recognized as Mother Joseph day;
6 (h) The fourth day of September, recognized as Marcus Whitman
7 day;
8 (i) The seventh day of December, recognized as Pearl Harbor
9 remembrance day;
10 (j) The twenty-seventh day of July, recognized as national Korean
11 war veterans armistice day;
12 (k) The nineteenth day of February, recognized as civil liberties
13 day of remembrance;
14 (l) The nineteenth day of June, recognized as Juneteenth, a day
15 of remembrance for the day the slaves learned of their freedom;
16 (m) The thirtieth day of March, recognized as welcome home
17 Vietnam veterans day; ((and))
18 (n) The eleventh day of January, recognized as human trafficking
19 awareness day; and
20 (o) The last Saturday of September, recognized as public lands
21 day.

--- END ---