

---

HOUSE BILL 2056

---

State of Washington                      65th Legislature                      2017 Regular Session

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

Read first time 02/09/17.      Referred to Committee on State Govt, Elections & IT.

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 ---