
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2976

State of Washington

65th Legislature

2018 Regular Session

By House State Government, Elections & Information Technology
(originally sponsored by Representatives Peterson and Ortiz-Self)

READ FIRST TIME 02/02/18.

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

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

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

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

- 19 (1) The following are state legal holidays:
20 (a) Sunday;

- 1 (b) The first day of January, commonly called New Year's Day;
2 (c) The third Monday of January, celebrated as the anniversary of
3 the birth of Martin Luther King, Jr.;
- 4 (d) The third Monday of February, to be known as Presidents' Day
5 and celebrated as the anniversary of the births of Abraham Lincoln
6 and George Washington;
- 7 (e) The last Monday of May, commonly known as Memorial Day;
8 (f) The fourth day of July, the anniversary of the Declaration of
9 Independence;
- 10 (g) The first Monday in September, to be known as Labor Day;
11 (h) The eleventh day of November, to be known as Veterans' Day;
12 (i) The fourth Thursday in November, to be known as Thanksgiving
13 Day;
- 14 (j) The Friday immediately following the fourth Thursday in
15 November, to be known as Native American Heritage Day; and
16 (k) The twenty-fifth day of December, commonly called Christmas
17 Day.

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

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

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

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

21 (5) Whenever any state legal holiday:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

39 (d) The twenty-sixth day of January, recognized as Washington
40 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 fourth Saturday of September, recognized as public lands
21 day.

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