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S.68

Introduced by Senators Ingram, Clarkson, Hardy and Pollina

Referred to Committee on Government Operations

Date: January 31, 2019

Subject: General provisions; legal holidays; Columbus Day; Indigenous Peoples' Day

Statement of purpose of bill as introduced: This bill proposes to change the name of the legal holiday, observed on the second Monday of October, from Columbus Day to Indigenous Peoples' Day.

An act relating to Indigenous Peoples' Day

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

Sec. 1. LEGISLATIVE FINDINGS

The General Assembly of the State of Vermont finds:

(1) Indigenous Peoples' Day was originally proposed in 1977 by a delegation of Native Nations to the International Conference on Discrimination Against Indigenous Populations in the Americas.

(2) Many cities and towns in the United States have recognized Columbus Day as "Indigenous Peoples' Day" to highlight, celebrate, and educate others about indigenous heritage and resiliency.

1           (3) The General Assembly recognizes and values the historic, cultural,  
2           and contemporary significance of the indigenous peoples of the lands that later  
3           became known as the Americas, which includes Vermont.

4           (4) Vermont was founded and built upon lands whose original  
5           inhabitants were the Abenaki people and honors them and their ancestors.

6           (5) The establishment of this holiday will aid in the cultural  
7           development of Vermont's recognized tribes, while enabling all indigenous  
8           peoples in Vermont and elsewhere to move forward and formulate positive  
9           outcomes, from the history of colonization.

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) President's 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;



- 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 Thursday in November, Thanksgiving Day; and~~  
7           ~~December 25, Christmas Day.~~  
8           (2) New Year's Day, January 1;  
9           (3) Martin Luther King, Jr.'s Birthday, the third Monday in January;  
10          (4) President's Day, the third Monday in February;  
11          (5) Town Meeting Day, the first Tuesday in March;  
12          (6) Memorial Day, the last Monday in May;  
13          (7) Independence Day, July 4;  
14          (8) Bennington Battle Day, August 16;  
15          (9) Labor Day, the first Monday in September;  
16          (10) Indigenous Peoples' Day, the second Monday in October;  
17          (11) Veterans' Day, November 11;  
18          (12) Thanksgiving Day, the fourth Thursday in November;  
19          (13) Christmas Day, December 25.

