**House Bill 2604**

Sponsored by Representative RESCHKE (Presession filed.)

**SUMMARY**

The following summary is not prepared by the sponsors of the measure and is not a part of the body thereof subject to consideration by the Legislative Assembly. It is an editor's brief statement of the essential features of the measure as introduced.

Designates second Monday in October of each year as Columbus Day.
Moves Indigenous Peoples’ Day to first Friday in October of each year.
Declares emergency, effective on passage.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

Relating to state holidays; creating new provisions; amending ORS 187.296; and declaring an emergency.

Whereas on October 12, 1492, Christopher Columbus arrived in the New World and changed the course of history; and
Whereas Columbus' discoveries played an integral role in the founding of the United States; and
Whereas Columbus has been honored for generations as a pillar of American heritage and culture; and
Whereas Columbus Day is one of the oldest patriotic holidays in the United States, first celebrated in 1792; and
Whereas in 1892, President Benjamin Harrison declared Columbus Day a national holiday; and
Whereas the Pledge of Allegiance was written in honor of the 400th anniversary of Columbus' first voyage; and
Whereas Columbus Day celebrates the beginning of cultural exchange between America and Europe; and
Whereas following Columbus' first voyage, millions of European immigrants brought their art, music, science, medicine, philosophy and religious principles to America; and
Whereas these contributions have helped shape the United States and include Greek democracy, Roman law, Judeo-Christian ethics and the belief that all men are created equal; and
Whereas in 2021, the Legislative Assembly enacted House Bill 2526, which designated the second Monday in October of each year as Indigenous Peoples’ Day in Oregon; and
Whereas Columbus Day is a legal federal holiday on the second Monday in October of each year; and
Whereas the observance of Indigenous Peoples’ Day in Oregon on the second Monday in October of each year causes confusion between the state and federal calendars; and
Whereas Indigenous Peoples’ Day should continue to be observed in Oregon for the many reasons expressed in House Bill 2526 (2021), but celebrating Indigenous Peoples’ Day is not inconsistent with celebrating Columbus Day; and
Whereas moving Indigenous Peoples’ Day to the first Friday in October of each year would allow Columbus Day to be observed on the second Monday in October of each year; now, therefore,

Be It Enacted by the People of the State of Oregon:

NOTE: Matter in **boldfaced** type in an amended section is new; matter [*italic and bracketed*] is existing law to be omitted. New sections are in **boldfaced** type.

LC 2790
SECTION 1. The second Monday in October of each year is designated as Columbus Day.

SECTION 2. ORS 187.296 is amended to read:

187.296. The [second Monday] first Friday in October of each year is designated as Indigenous Peoples’ Day.

SECTION 3. This 2023 Act being necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health and safety, an emergency is declared to exist, and this 2023 Act takes effect on its passage.