

House Bill 2604

Sponsored by Representative RESCHKE (Pre-session 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

1
2 Relating to state holidays; creating new provisions; amending ORS 187.296; and declaring an emer-
3 gency.

4 Whereas on October 12, 1492, Christopher Columbus arrived in the New World and changed the
5 course of history; and

6 Whereas Columbus' discoveries played an integral role in the founding of the United States; and

7 Whereas Columbus has been honored for generations as a pillar of American heritage and cul-
8 ture; and

9 Whereas Columbus Day is one of the oldest patriotic holidays in the United States, first cele-
10 brated in 1792; and

11 Whereas in 1892, President Benjamin Harrison declared Columbus Day a national holiday; and

12 Whereas the Pledge of Allegiance was written in honor of the 400th anniversary of Columbus'
13 first voyage; and

14 Whereas Columbus Day celebrates the beginning of cultural exchange between America and
15 Europe; and

16 Whereas following Columbus' first voyage, millions of European immigrants brought their art,
17 music, science, medicine, philosophy and religious principles to America; and

18 Whereas these contributions have helped shape the United States and include Greek democracy,
19 Roman law, Judeo-Christian ethics and the belief that all men are created equal; and

20 Whereas in 2021, the Legislative Assembly enacted House Bill 2526, which designated the sec-
21 ond Monday in October of each year as Indigenous Peoples' Day in Oregon; and

22 Whereas Columbus Day is a legal federal holiday on the second Monday in October of each
23 year; and

24 Whereas the observance of Indigenous Peoples' Day in Oregon on the second Monday in October
25 of each year causes confusion between the state and federal calendars; and

26 Whereas Indigenous Peoples' Day should continue to be observed in Oregon for the many rea-
27 sons expressed in House Bill 2526 (2021), but celebrating Indigenous Peoples' Day is not inconsistent
28 with celebrating Columbus Day; and

29 Whereas moving Indigenous Peoples' Day to the first Friday in October of each year would al-
30 low Columbus Day to be observed on the second Monday in October of each year; now, therefore,

31 **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.

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

2 **SECTION 2.** ORS 187.296 is amended to read:

3 187.296. The [*second Monday*] **first Friday** in October of each year is designated as Indigenous
4 Peoples' Day.

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

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