

**Second Regular Session
Seventieth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

PREAMENDED

*This Unofficial Version Includes Committee
Amendments Not Yet Adopted on Second Reading*

LLS NO. 16-0380.01 Esther van Mourik x4215

SENATE BILL 16-021

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Donovan, Aguilar, Guzman, Heath, Hodge, Johnston, Jones, Kefalas, Kerr, Merrifield,
Newell, Steadman, Todd

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Mitsch Bush and Becker K.,

Senate Committees

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House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING RECOGNITION OF THE THIRD SATURDAY IN MAY AS A**
102 **STATE HOLIDAY, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH,**
103 **DESIGNATING THE THIRD SATURDAY IN MAY AS "PUBLIC LANDS**
104 **DAY".**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries>.)

The bill designates the fourth Monday in March as "Public Lands Day" to recognize the significant contributions that national public lands within Colorado make to wildlife, recreation, the economy, and to

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

Coloradans' quality of life.

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly
3 hereby finds and declares that:

4 (a) Colorado contains a variety of national, state, and local public
5 lands, including national parks, national forests, wildlife refuges,
6 monuments, wilderness areas, and other public lands;

7 (b) Colorado's public lands reflect many of our most noble
8 democratic ideals, because they are open and accessible to everyone, no
9 matter how rich or poor;

10 (c) Colorado's public lands are defining features of the state and
11 are a foundation for our quality of life by supporting the vitality of our
12 communities, as well as representing Colorado's common heritage, fossils
13 marking where dinosaurs roamed, ancient ruins and petroglyphs dotting
14 the canyons, and historic mining towns nestled in steep-sided valleys;

15 (d) Colorado's public lands feature an amazingly diverse range of
16 landscapes, from the snow-capped peaks of the Rocky Mountains down
17 to rushing rivers, red rock canyons to grassy plains, grasslands, and
18 tree-lined mountain valleys;

19 (e) Colorado's public lands provide many benefits to our residents
20 and support a wide variety of activities, from recreational pursuits, such
21 as hunting, fishing, hiking, biking, cross-country skiing, and rafting, to
22 natural resource development;

23 (f) Colorado's public lands have a substantial impact on economic
24 development and jobs through mineral extraction, timber sales, ranching,
25 tourism, and the outdoor recreation industry;

1 (g) Colorado's public lands contribute to Colorado's clean air and
2 clean water; ___

3 (h) Coloradans will benefit when the three levels of government
4 in the federal, state, and local government systems are working in greater
5 harmony and in full partnership to serve diverse public needs for access
6 and utilization of public lands:

7 (i) Coloradans of all races, ethnicities, occupations, and lifestyles
8 continue to derive multiple benefits from the traditional, long-standing
9 multiple-use management philosophy of public lands under the
10 stewardship of the National Forest Service and the United States Bureau
11 of Land Management, practices that reflect the public support for policies
12 incorporating a judicious balance between aesthetic, recreational, and
13 economic values:

14 (j) Coloradans have demonstrated for over a century the ability to
15 balance the values of preservation, conservation, and economic
16 productivity, clearly indicating that these values are not in conflict:

17 (k) Coloradans overwhelmingly prefer to maintain the historic
18 balance between conservation and public access to public lands and reject
19 additional and unwise restrictions on public access via roads and trails:

20 (l) Coloradans recognize the need for giving a higher priority to
21 proactive management measures to conserve and protect national forests
22 from invasive and harmful species and from wildfires:

23 (m) Coloradans believe that federal agencies and the President
24 should consult with state and local elected bodies, including the General
25 Assembly, before designating new national monuments:

26 (n) Coloradans would be well served by a reform and greater
27 legislative oversight of the current federal regulatory process, wherein the

1 diverse vital interests of Coloradans are too often not adequately
2 represented in the adjudication and settlement of federal regulatory issues,
3 resulting too often in "sweetheart" consent decrees between plaintiffs and
4 federal agencies; and

5 (o) It is appropriate for the state to publicly observe and pay
6 tribute to the importance of Colorado's public lands by observing Public
7 Lands Day on the third Saturday in May in each year.

8 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 24-11-113 as
9 follows:

10 **24-11-113. Public lands day.** (1) THE THIRD SATURDAY IN MAY
11 IN EACH YEAR IS KNOWN AS "PUBLIC LANDS DAY", AND APPROPRIATE
12 OBSERVANCE MAY BE HELD BY THE PUBLIC AND IN ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS
13 OF THE STATE IN TRIBUTE TO THE IMPORTANCE OF PUBLIC LANDS IN THE
14 STATE.

15 ==
16 (2) ANNUALLY THE GOVERNOR SHALL ISSUE A PROCLAMATION
17 CALLING FOR THE CELEBRATION OF PUBLIC LANDS DAY.

18 **SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
19 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
20 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August
21 10, 2016, if adjournment sine die is on May 11, 2016); except that, if a
22 referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the
23 state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act
24 within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect
25 unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in
26 November 2016 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
27 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.