



Legislative Council Staff

Research Note

Version: Final

Date: 11/29/2016

Bill Number

Senate Bill 16-021

Sponsors

**Senator Donovan
Representatives Mitsch Bush
and Becker K.**

Short Title

**Recognition Of Public Lands
Day**

Research Analyst

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Status

This research note reflects the final version of the bill, which was signed by the Governor on May 17, 2016 and became effective August 10, 2016.

Summary

The bill designates a yearly "Public Lands Day" on the third Saturday of May and allows appropriate observance by the public and public schools in the state. The bill requires the Governor to issue a yearly proclamation calling for the celebration of Public Lands Day.

Background

Public lands comprise a large amount of Colorado's total 66.7 million acres. According to Colorado Parks & Wildlife, a division of the Department of Natural Resources, State Trust Lands total nearly 3 million surface acres. In addition, according to a 2013 report by the Congressional Research Service, the federal government owns 35.9% of the land in Colorado; the Forest Service owns 14,482,727 acres, the Bureau of Land Management own 8,335,703 acres, the National Park Service owns 661,472 acres, the Fish & Wildlife Service owns 174,230 acres, and the Department of Defense owns 216,520 acres.

Senate Action

Senate State Affairs Committee (January 27, 2016). At the hearing, representatives from the National Wildlife Federation, the Sierra Club, Conservation Colorado, Vail Resorts, the

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Colorado Wildlife Foundation, the Colorado Department of Natural Resources, and nine private citizens testified in support of the bill. The bill was laid over.

Senate State Affairs Committee (February 22, 2016). The committee adopted amendments L.002 and L.004 and referred the bill, as amended, to the Senate Committee of the Whole. Amendment L.002 expands the legislative declaration, highlighting the benefits of public lands access to Coloradans. Amendment L.004 changes the date of the state holiday to the third Saturday in May and adds a petition clause.

Senate second reading (March 1, 2016). The Committee of the Whole adopted amendment L.008, which amends the legislative declaration and states that "Coloradans would be well served by reform and greater legislative oversight of the current federal regulatory process". The Senate passed the bill on second reading, as amended.

Senate third reading (March 2, 2016). The Senate passed the bill on third reading with no amendments.

House Action

House State Affairs Committee (April 18, 2016). At the hearing, representatives from Patriot Anglers, Trout Unlimited, Conservation Colorado, Vail Resorts, and Conservatives for Responsible Stewardship testified in support of the bill. The committee adopted Amendment L.010 and referred the bill, as amended, to the House Committee of the Whole. Amendment L.010 amends the legislative declaration to cite the importance of local governments' collaborative involvement in federal land management decisions.

House second reading (April 22, 2016). The Committee of the Whole adopted the House State Affairs committee report, along with amendments L.011 and L.012. Amendment L.011 amends the legislative declaration to urge consultation with and reliance upon local citizens and state agencies to lead efforts to protect endangered species, and amendment L.012 amends the legislative declaration to highlight the role of local law enforcement to positively influence matters of public safety.

House third reading (April 25, 2016). The House passed the bill on third reading with no amendments.

Conference Committee

First conference committee (May 4, 2016). The Senate did not concur in amendments made by the House, and a conference committee was formed. The committee adopted a report wherein the House receded from its amendments, and, under the authority granted the committee to consider matters not at issue between the two houses, struck the entire legislative declaration.

House action (May 5, 2016). The House adopted the first report of the first conference committee and re-passed the bill.

Senate action (May 6, 2016). The Senate adopted the first report of the first conference committee and re-passed the bill.