HOUSE BILL 20-1031

A BILL FOR AN ACT

CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW STATE HOLIDAY IN PLACE OF COLUMBUS 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://leg.colorado.gov.)

The bill establishes Colorado day as a state legal holiday in place of Columbus day. It also makes conforming amendments, including repealing the existing statute concerning Colorado day as a commemorative holiday.
Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:

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

(a) State holidays are intended to honor prominent figures in United States history and acknowledge other civic events and celebrations and not to honor individual communities or heritages;

(b) Colorado day was established by the general assembly to commemorate the anniversary of the 1876 admission of the state of Colorado into the United States of America and should be celebrated as a legal state holiday;

(c) Although Columbus is recognized as a voyager who discovered the land that became the United States of America, he did not travel to or enter the territory that became the United States. In 1492, Columbus encountered inhabitants, the indigenous Taíno people, when he landed at the island he named Hispaniola, the current island nations of the Dominican Republic and Haiti, nearly 2,000 miles from the United States.

(d) To date, at least eleven states have renamed or removed Columbus day as a state legal holiday, including Alaska, Hawaii, Iowa, Maine, Minnesota, New Mexico, North Carolina, Oregon, South Dakota, Vermont, and Wisconsin;

(e) At least one hundred thirty cities and towns have also renamed the holiday, including the Colorado cities of Durango, Boulder, and Denver; and

(f) Replacing Columbus day as a state holiday does not take away from the recognition of the Italian-American community and its contributions to the state.
(2) Therefore, in order to preserve the number of state holidays while commemorating Colorado's history, the general assembly hereby replaces Columbus day with Colorado day as a legal state holiday.

SECTION 2. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-11-101, amend (1) as follows:

24-11-101. Legal holidays - effect. (1) The following days, viz: The first day of January, commonly called New Year's day; the third Monday in January, which shall be observed as the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.; the third Monday in February, commonly called Washington-Lincoln day; the last Monday in May, commonly called Memorial day; the fourth day of July, commonly called Independence day; THE FIRST MONDAY IN AUGUST, WHICH SHALL BE OBSERVED AS COLORADO DAY; the first Monday in September, commonly called Labor day; the second Monday in October, commonly called Columbus day; the eleventh day of November, commonly called Veterans' day; the fourth Thursday in November, commonly called Thanksgiving day; the twenty-fifth day of December, commonly called Christmas day; and any day appointed or recommended by the governor of this state or the president of the United States as a day of fasting or prayer or thanksgiving, are hereby declared to be legal holidays and shall, for all purposes whatsoever, as regards the presenting for payment or acceptance and the protesting and giving notice of the dishonor of bills of exchange, drafts, bank checks, promissory notes, or other negotiable instruments and also for the holding of courts, be treated and considered as is the first day of the week commonly called Sunday.

SECTION 3. In Colorado Revised Statutes, repeal 24-11-111 as follows:
24-11-111. Colorado Day. On the first Monday of August in each year, commonly called "Colorado Day", appropriate observance may be held by the public in tribute to the anniversary of the 1876 admission of the state of Colorado into the United States of America.

SECTION 4. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 5-1-301, amend (6) as follows:

5-1-301. General definitions. In addition to definitions appearing in subsequent articles, as used in this code, unless the context otherwise requires:

(6) "Business day" means any calendar day except Sunday, New Year's day, the third Monday in January observed as the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Washington-Lincoln day, Memorial day, Independence day, COLORADO DAY, Labor day, Columbus day, Veterans' day, Thanksgiving day, and Christmas day.

SECTION 5. In Colorado Revised Statutes, 6-1-102, amend (2.5) as follows:

6-1-102. Definitions. As used in this article 1, unless the context otherwise requires:

(2.5) "Business day" means any calendar day except Sunday, New Year's day, the third Monday in January observed as the birthday of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Washington-Lincoln day, Memorial day, Independence day, COLORADO DAY, Labor day, Columbus day, Veterans' day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

SECTION 6. Safety clause. The general assembly hereby finds, determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate preservation of the public peace, health, or safety.