

CHAPTER 43

GOVERNMENT - STATE

HOUSE BILL 20-1031

BY REPRESENTATIVE(S) Benavidez and Mullica, Buckner, Caraveo, Coleman, Cutter, Duran, Exum, Garnett, Gonzales-Gutierrez, Herod, Hooton, Jackson, Jaquez Lewis, Kipp, Melton, Michaelson Jenet, Singer, Snyder, Tipper, Weissman, Woodrow;
also SENATOR(S) Williams A. and Hansen, Fenberg, Fields, Foote, Gonzales.

AN ACT**CONCERNING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW STATE HOLIDAY IN PLACE OF COLUMBUS DAY.**

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 in Colorado.

(b) Although Christopher Columbus is recognized as a voyager who arrived in what is now known as the Caribbean Sea, he never traveled to or entered the territory that became the United States. He had no knowledge of or contact with the area now known as the state of Colorado, providing no rationale for a Colorado state holiday in his name. In 1492, he was welcomed by the indigenous Taino people to their homeland on the island of Quiqueya, which Columbus renamed Hispaniola. Fifty years later, the Taino people had been nearly exterminated by Columbus and his successors.

(c) Frances Xavier Cabrini was a humanitarian champion of immigrants and children in the United States. Cabrini first came to Colorado in 1902. In 1905, she opened the Queen of Heaven Orphanage for girls in a residence in north Denver.

(d) In her lifetime, Cabrini was responsible for founding sixty-seven institutions, including schools, hospitals, and orphanages throughout the United States and in South and Central America.

Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material added to existing law; dashes through words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law and such material is not part of the act.

(e) In 1909, Cabrini negotiated the purchase of a rural property to serve as a summer camp for the girls living in the orphanage. The land was on the eastern slope of Lookout Mountain in Golden and had no reliable source of water.

(f) During Cabrini's last visit to Colorado in 1912, while staying at the mountain camp, she directed the girls to dig under a specific rock where they found a spring of fresh water. That spring continues to provide water to the property today.

(g) The land upon which Cabrini established her orphanage and camp is the traditional territory and homeland of the Cheyenne, Arapaho, and Ute indigenous nations. Those indigenous peoples, and all indigenous peoples, have a special, sacred relationship with water, similar to that of Cabrini.

(h) Cabrini was naturalized as a United States citizen in October 1909. Recognizing the first Monday in October as Frances Xavier Cabrini Day in recognition of Cabrini's contributions to the state of Colorado creates an opportunity to promote an appreciation, tolerance, and understanding of the different cultures that make up our state.

(2) Therefore, in order to preserve the number of state holidays while commemorating the contributions of Cabrini to Colorado and the United States, the general assembly hereby replaces Columbus day with Frances Xavier Cabrini 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 September, commonly called Labor day; the ~~second~~ **FIRST** Monday in October, commonly called ~~Columbus~~ **FRANCES XAVIER CABRINI** 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, 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, Labor day, ~~Columbus~~
FRANCES XAVIER CABRINI day, Veterans' day, Thanksgiving day, and Christmas
day.

SECTION 4. 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, Labor day, ~~Columbus~~
FRANCES XAVIER CABRINI day, Veterans' day, Thanksgiving, and Christmas.

SECTION 5. Act subject to petition - effective date. This act takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly (August 5, 2020, if adjournment sine die is on May 6, 2020); except that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in November 2020 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.

Approved: March 20, 2020