

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 2703 Session of  
2018

INTRODUCED BY RABB, NEILSON, O'BRIEN, YOUNGBLOOD, J. HARRIS AND  
BRIGGS, OCTOBER 12, 2018

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, OCTOBER 12, 2018

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of August 13, 1963 (P.L.660, No.345), entitled  
2 "An act providing for the observance of October 12 of each  
3 year as Columbus Day," amending the title of the act; further  
4 providing for the issuance of a proclamation regarding  
5 Columbus Day; and making editorial changes.

6 The General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
7 hereby enacts as follows:

8 Section 1. The title of the act of August 13, 1963 (P.L.660,  
9 No.345), entitled "An act providing for the observance of  
10 October 12 of each year as Columbus Day," is amended to read:

11 AN ACT

12 Providing for the observance of [October 12] the second  
13 Monday in October of each year as [Columbus] Indigenous Peoples'  
14 Day.

15 Section 2. Section 1 of the act is amended to read:

16 Section 1. [The Governor shall issue, annually, his  
17 proclamation designating and setting apart October 12 as  
18 Columbus Day, and calling upon the people of the Commonwealth,  
19 the public schools and other educational institutions and

1 historical organizations to observe the discovery of the New  
2 World with appropriate exercises and programs, to the end that  
3 the discovery of America shall be commemorated each year.] The  
4 Governor shall issue annually a proclamation designating the  
5 second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples' Day and calling  
6 upon the residents of this Commonwealth, the public schools and  
7 other educational institutions and historical organizations to:

8       (1) Celebrate the millions of indigenous people that  
9       inhabited the land prior to the arrival of Christopher  
10       Columbus.

11       (2) Draw attention to the fact that the exploration of  
12       Christopher Columbus adversely impacted native populations,  
13       devastated natural resources and initiated the European slave  
14       trade.

15       (3) Recognize the discrimination and oppression suffered  
16       by indigenous people as a result of European settlement, in  
17       order to build and strengthen connections with Native  
18       American communities.

19       (4) Honor the sacrifice, culture, tradition and  
20       contributions of indigenous people of North America.

21       Section 3. Any reference to Columbus Day under the act of  
22 May 31, 1893 (P.L.188, No.138), referred to as the Legal Holiday  
23 Law, or section 113(b) of the act of November 30, 1965 (P.L.847,  
24 No.356), known as the Banking Code of 1965, shall be deemed a  
25 reference to Indigenous Peoples' Day.

26       Section 4. This act shall take effect immediately.