
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE BILL

No. 1945 Session of
2024

INTRODUCED BY KENYATTA, SANCHEZ, MADDEN, KINKEAD, KRAJEWSKI,
GREEN AND PASHINSKI, JANUARY 9, 2024

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, JANUARY 9, 2024

AN ACT

1 Amending the act of May 31, 1893 (P.L.188, No.138), entitled "An
2 act designating the days and half days to be observed as
3 legal holidays, and for the payment, acceptance and
4 protesting of bills, notes, drafts, checks and other
5 negotiable paper on such days," further providing for the
6 designation of legal holidays.

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

9 Section 1. Section 1 of the act of May 31, 1893 (P.L.188,
10 No.138), referred to as the Legal Holiday Law, is amended to
11 read:

12 Section 1. Be it enacted, &c., That the following days and
13 half days, namely: the first day of January, commonly called New
14 Year's Day, the sixth day of January, known as Democracy
15 Observance Day for Education, Remembrance and Vigilance and
16 commonly called Democracy Observance Day, the third Monday of
17 January, known as Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, the third
18 Monday of February, known as Presidents' Day, Good Friday, the
19 last Monday in May, known as Memorial Day, the fourteenth day of
20 June, known as Flag Day, the fourth of July, called Independence

1 Day, the first Monday of September, known as Labor Day, the
2 second Monday in October, known as Columbus Day, the first
3 Tuesday after the first Monday of November, Election Day, the
4 eleventh day of November, known as Veterans' Day, the fourth
5 Thursday in November, known as Thanksgiving Day, the twenty-
6 fifth day of December, known as Christmas Day; and every
7 Saturday, after twelve o'clock noon until twelve o'clock
8 midnight, each of which Saturdays is hereby designated a half
9 holiday; and any day appointed or recommended by the Governor of
10 this State or the President of the United States as a day of
11 thanksgiving or fastings and prayer, or other religious
12 observance; and in the event of a financial crisis in the State
13 or Nation, any day or days appointed by the Governor of this
14 State or the President of the United States as a bank holiday;
15 and in the event of public calamity in any part of the State
16 through fire, flood, famine, violence, riot, insurrection, or
17 enemy action, any day or days appointed by the Governor of this
18 State as a bank holiday for banking institutions affected by
19 such public calamity shall, for all purposes whatever as regards
20 the presenting for payment or acceptance, and as regards the
21 protesting and giving notice of the dishonor of bills of
22 exchange, checks, drafts, and promissory notes, made after the
23 passage of this act, be treated and considered as the first day
24 of the week, commonly called Sunday, and as public holidays and
25 half holidays; and all such bills, checks, drafts, and notes
26 otherwise presentable for acceptance or payment on any of the
27 said days, shall be deemed to be payable and be presentable for
28 acceptance or payment on the secular or business day next
29 succeeding such holiday or half holiday; except checks, drafts,
30 bills of exchange, and promissory notes, payable at sight or on

1 demand, which would otherwise be payable on any half holiday
2 Saturday, shall be deemed to be payable at or before twelve
3 o'clock noon of such half holiday: Provided, however, That for
4 the purpose of protesting or otherwise holding liable any party
5 to any bill of exchange, check, draft, or promissory note, and
6 which shall not have been paid before twelve o'clock noon of any
7 Saturday designated a half holiday as aforesaid, a demand for
8 acceptance or payment thereof shall not be made, and notice of
9 protest or dishonor thereof shall not be given, until the next
10 succeeding secular or business day: And provided further, That
11 when any person, firm, corporation or company shall, on any
12 Saturday designated a half holiday, receive for collection any
13 check, bill of exchange, draft, or promissory note, such person,
14 firm, corporation, or company shall not be deemed guilty of any
15 neglect or omission of duty, nor incur any liability, in not
16 presenting for payment or acceptance or collection such check,
17 bill of exchange, draft or promissory note, on that day: And
18 provided further, That, in construing this section, every
19 Saturday designated a half holiday shall, until twelve o'clock
20 noon, be deemed a secular or business day; and the days and half
21 days aforesaid, so designated as holidays and half holidays,
22 shall be considered as public holidays and half holidays for all
23 purposes whatsoever as regards the transaction of business,
24 except that any day or days appointed as a bank holiday shall be
25 regarded as secular or business days for all other purposes than
26 those mentioned in this act: And provided further, That nothing
27 herein contained shall be construed to prevent or invalidate the
28 entry, issuance, service, or execution of any writ, summons,
29 confession of judgment, or other legal process whatever, on any
30 of the holidays or half holidays herein designated as holidays;

1 nor to prevent any banking institution from keeping its doors
2 open or transacting its business, on any Saturday afternoon, if
3 by a vote of its directors it shall elect to do so, unless such
4 Saturday is appointed as a bank holiday under the provisions of
5 this act: And provided further, That any banking institution
6 may, by a vote of its directors, or in the case of a private
7 bank by action of the private banker or bankers, notice of which
8 shall have been posted in its banking house for not less than
9 fifteen days before the taking effect thereof, observe any
10 Saturday throughout the year as a full holiday with like effect
11 hereunder as though such day had been designated as a full
12 holiday by the provisions of this act, and may in the same
13 manner, observe as a full holiday any Monday next following the
14 first day of January, the fourth day of July or the twenty-fifth
15 day of December whenever any of such holidays shall occur on a
16 Saturday with like effect hereunder as though such day had been
17 designated as a full holiday by the provisions of this act.

18 Section 2. This act shall take effect immediately.