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SENATE BILL 5540

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State of Washington                      64th Legislature                      2015 Regular Session

By Senators Brown, Becker, Schoesler, Braun, Bailey, Warnick,  
Dammeier, Parlette, and Conway

Read first time 01/23/15.      Referred to Committee on Government  
Operations & State Security.

1            AN ACT Relating to recognizing the national day of the cowboy;  
2 reenacting and amending RCW 1.16.050; and creating a new section.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4            NEW SECTION.      **Sec. 1.**      The Washington state legislature finds  
5 that:

6            (1) Pioneering men and women known as cowboys, helped establish  
7 America's frontiers.

8            (2) The cowboy archetype transcends gender, generations,  
9 ethnicity, geographic boundaries, and political affiliations.

10           (3) The cowboy embodies honesty, integrity, courage, compassion,  
11 and determination.

12           (4) The cowboy vaquero spirit exemplifies patriotism and strength  
13 of character.

14           (5) The cowboy is an excellent steward of the land and its  
15 creatures.

16           (6) The core values expressed within the cowboy code of conduct  
17 continue to inspire the pursuit of the highest caliber of personal  
18 integrity.

19           (7) Cowboy and ranching traditions have been part of the American  
20 landscape and culture since 1523, and today's cowboys and cowgirls

1 continue to strive to preserve and perpetuate this unique element of  
2 America's heritage.

3 (8) Annual attendance at rodeos exceed thirty million fans  
4 worldwide.

5 (9) The cowboy and his or her horse are a central figure in  
6 literature, art, film, poetry, photography, and music.

7 (10) The cowboy is a true American icon occupying a central place  
8 in the public's imagination.

9 (11) Membership and participation in the national day of the  
10 cowboy organization, single action shooting society, working ranch  
11 cowboys association, cowboy mounted shooting association, American  
12 quarter horse association, pro rodeo cowboys association,  
13 championship bull riding, women's pro rodeo, United States team  
14 roping, the western music association, and other organizations that  
15 encompass the livelihood of the cowboy continue to expand both  
16 nationally and internationally.

17 **Sec. 2.** RCW 1.16.050 and 2014 c 177 s 2 and 2014 c 168 s 1 are  
18 each reenacted and amended to read as follows:

19 (1) The following are state legal holidays:

20 (a) Sunday;

21 (b) The first day of January, commonly called New Year's Day;

22 (c) The third Monday of January, celebrated as the anniversary of  
23 the birth of Martin Luther King, Jr.;

24 (d) The third Monday of February, to be known as Presidents' Day  
25 and celebrated as the anniversary of the births of Abraham Lincoln  
26 and George Washington;

27 (e) The last Monday of May, commonly known as Memorial Day;

28 (f) The fourth day of July, the anniversary of the Declaration of  
29 Independence;

30 (g) The first Monday in September, to be known as Labor Day;

31 (h) The eleventh day of November, to be known as Veterans' Day;

32 (i) The fourth Thursday in November, to be known as Thanksgiving  
33 Day;

34 (j) The Friday immediately following the fourth Thursday in  
35 November, to be known as Native American Heritage Day; and

36 (k) The twenty-fifth day of December, commonly called Christmas  
37 Day.

38 (2) Employees of the state and its political subdivisions, except  
39 employees of school districts and except those nonclassified

1 employees of institutions of higher education who hold appointments  
2 or are employed under contracts to perform services for periods of  
3 less than twelve consecutive months, are entitled to one paid holiday  
4 per calendar year in addition to those specified in this section.  
5 Each employee of the state or its political subdivisions may select  
6 the day on which the employee desires to take the additional holiday  
7 provided for in this section after consultation with the employer  
8 pursuant to guidelines to be promulgated by rule of the appropriate  
9 personnel authority, or in the case of local government by ordinance  
10 or resolution of the legislative authority.

11 (3) Employees of the state and its political subdivisions,  
12 including employees of school districts and those nonclassified  
13 employees of institutions of higher education who hold appointments  
14 or are employed under contracts to perform services for periods of  
15 less than twelve consecutive months, are entitled to two unpaid  
16 holidays per calendar year for a reason of faith or conscience or an  
17 organized activity conducted under the auspices of a religious  
18 denomination, church, or religious organization. This includes  
19 employees of public institutions of higher education, including  
20 community colleges, technical colleges, and workforce training  
21 programs. The employee may select the days on which the employee  
22 desires to take the two unpaid holidays after consultation with the  
23 employer pursuant to guidelines to be promulgated by rule of the  
24 appropriate personnel authority, or in the case of local government  
25 by ordinance or resolution of the legislative authority. If an  
26 employee prefers to take the two unpaid holidays on specific days for  
27 a reason of faith or conscience, or an organized activity conducted  
28 under the auspices of a religious denomination, church, or religious  
29 organization, the employer must allow the employee to do so unless  
30 the employee's absence would impose an undue hardship on the employer  
31 or the employee is necessary to maintain public safety. Undue  
32 hardship shall have the meaning established in rule by the office of  
33 financial management under RCW 43.41.109.

34 (4) If any of the state legal holidays specified in this section  
35 are also federal legal holidays but observed on different dates, only  
36 the state legal holidays are recognized as a paid legal holiday for  
37 employees of the state and its political subdivisions. However, for  
38 port districts and the law enforcement and public transit employees  
39 of municipal corporations, either the federal or the state legal

1 holiday is recognized as a paid legal holiday, but in no case may  
2 both holidays be recognized as a paid legal holiday for employees.

3 (5) Whenever any state legal holiday:

4 (a) Other than Sunday, falls upon a Sunday, the following Monday  
5 is the legal holiday; or

6 (b) Falls upon a Saturday, the preceding Friday is the legal  
7 holiday.

8 (6) Nothing in this section may be construed to have the effect  
9 of adding or deleting the number of paid holidays provided for in an  
10 agreement between employees and employers of political subdivisions  
11 of the state or as established by ordinance or resolution of the  
12 local government legislative authority.

13 (7) The legislature declares that the following days are  
14 recognized as provided in this subsection, but may not be considered  
15 legal holidays for any purpose:

16 (a) The thirteenth day of January, recognized as Korean-American  
17 day;

18 (b) The twelfth day of October, recognized as Columbus day;

19 (c) The ninth day of April, recognized as former prisoner of war  
20 recognition day;

21 (d) The twenty-sixth day of January, recognized as Washington  
22 army and air national guard day;

23 (e) The seventh day of August, recognized as purple heart  
24 recipient recognition day;

25 (f) The second Sunday in October, recognized as Washington state  
26 children's day;

27 (g) The sixteenth day of April, recognized as Mother Joseph day;

28 (h) The fourth day of September, recognized as Marcus Whitman  
29 day;

30 (i) The seventh day of December, recognized as Pearl Harbor  
31 remembrance day;

32 (j) The twenty-seventh day of July, recognized as national Korean  
33 war veterans armistice day;

34 (k) The nineteenth day of February, recognized as civil liberties  
35 day of remembrance;

36 (l) The nineteenth day of June, recognized as Juneteenth, a day  
37 of remembrance for the day the slaves learned of their freedom;

38 ((and))

39 (m) The thirtieth day of March, recognized as welcome home  
40 Vietnam veterans day; and

1        (n) The fourth Saturday in July, recognized as national day of  
2 the cowboy.

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