

Assembly Bill No. 144—Assemblymember Backus

CHAPTER.....

AN ACT relating to days of observance; establishing the second Monday in October of each year as “Indigenous Peoples Day” in the State of Nevada; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

Existing law authorizes the Governor to annually proclaim August 9 as “Indigenous Peoples Day” in the State of Nevada. (NRS 236.037) This bill instead establishes the second Monday in October as “Indigenous Peoples Day” and authorizes the Governor to issue annually a proclamation encouraging the observance of “Indigenous Peoples Day.”

EXPLANATION – Matter in ***bolded italics*** is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

WHEREAS, The State of Nevada recognizes and respects Indigenous people as traditional stewards of the lands that would later become known as the United States of America, and the enduring relationship that exists between Indigenous people and their traditional territories since time immemorial; and

WHEREAS, At present there are 574 federally recognized Tribes and Alaska Native Villages, who are sovereign nations with a government-to-government relationship promised under treaties with the United States; and

WHEREAS, The State of Nevada is home to 28 federally recognized Tribes, bands and communities who have inhabited and protected these lands since time immemorial and whose deep cultural connection has shaped the character of the State of Nevada; and

WHEREAS, The State of Nevada recognizes that over 60,000 members of these Tribes, from all over the United States have chosen to make the State of Nevada home and these tribal members contribute to the diversity of the population of this State; and

WHEREAS, The State of Nevada commits to policies and practices that will promote the accurate representation of Indigenous people in our cultural, educational and historical programs to ensure children and the community at large can benefit from the ancestral knowledge of Indigenous people; and

WHEREAS, The State of Nevada commits to policies and practices that will protect the public lands and sacred sites of the Indigenous people within the State of Nevada to ensure access and opportunity to enjoy for future generations; and



WHEREAS, Acknowledgment is a simple yet powerful way of showing respect and is a step toward correcting the stories and practices that erase Indigenous people's history and culture; and

WHEREAS, The State of Nevada recognizes the value of educational integrity and search for truth in telling the story of our foundation, and acknowledges past injustices to all Tribal nations, and as a gesture of reconciliation, desires to recognize "Indigenous Peoples Day"; now, therefore,

THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:

Section 1. NRS 236.037 is hereby amended to read as follows:

236.037 ***1. The second Monday in October of each year is established as "Indigenous Peoples Day" in the State of Nevada.***

2. The Governor ~~is authorized and requested to~~ shall issue annually ~~proclaim August 9 as "Indigenous Peoples Day" to celebrate the thriving culture and significant value that indigenous people add to the State of Nevada and the United States of America.~~ a proclamation encouraging the observance of "Indigenous Peoples Day." The proclamation must, without limitation:

(a) Call upon the news media, state and local officers, private nonprofit groups and foundations, schools, businesses and other public and private entities to bring to the attention of the residents of the State of Nevada the importance of Indigenous communities in the State of Nevada;

(b) Acknowledge the culture and history of and significant contributions and advancements made by Indigenous communities in the State of Nevada and around the world; and

(c) Promote active engagement by the residents of the State of Nevada in volunteer stewardship activities that support the preservation of the distinctive public lands that hold great importance for Indigenous communities in the State of Nevada and beyond.

Sec. 2. This act becomes effective upon passage and approval.

