

HB 52 - AS INTRODUCED

2025 SESSION

25-0004

08/09

HOUSE BILL **52**

AN ACT relative to legal holidays.

SPONSORS: Rep. Read, Rock. 10

COMMITTEE: Executive Departments and Administration

ANALYSIS

This bill clarifies the effect of designating a day a legal holiday and makes the days on which the state primary preceding a biennial election and the quadrennial presidential primary are held legal holidays.

Explanation: Matter added to current law appears in ***bold italics***.
 Matter removed from current law appears ~~[in brackets and struckthrough]~~
 Matter which is either (a) all new or (b) repealed and reenacted appears in regular type.

STATE OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

In the Year of Our Lord Two Thousand Twenty Five

AN ACT relative to legal holidays.

Be it Enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court convened:

1 1 Legal Holidays; Primaries and General Election Days. Amend RSA 288:1 to read as follows:
2 288:1 Holidays. January 1; the third Monday in January, known as Martin Luther King, Jr.
3 Civil Rights Day; the third Monday in February, known as Washington's Birthday; the last Monday
4 in May, known as Memorial Day or, on a date to coincide with the federal observance if it is held on
5 a different day; July 4, known as Independence Day; the first Monday in September, known as Labor
6 Day; the second Monday in October, known as Columbus Day; ***the day on which the state***
7 ***primary preceding a biennial election is held; the day on which the quadrennial***
8 ***presidential primary is held;*** the day on which the biennial election is held; November 11, known
9 as Veterans Day; Thanksgiving Day, whenever appointed; and Christmas Day are legal holidays.

10 2 New Section; Effect of Legal Holiday Designation. Amend RSA 288 by inserting after section
11 1 the following new section:

12 288:1-a Effect of Legal Holiday Designation.

13 I. Any state office, city, town, school district, and community college or university which is
14 supported by the state, shall not be open for regular purposes on a legal holiday, as established in
15 RSA 288:1. This section shall not apply to employees of such governmental units that, if so deemed
16 by such governmental units, are necessary to carry out essential governmental services, including
17 the primary and general elections. Nothing in this section shall prevent the designation of an
18 alternative holiday or leave schedule pursuant to statute or the terms of a collective bargaining
19 agreement.

20 II. All other employers shall, when practicable, allow employees up to 3 hours away from
21 work to cast ballots in biennial primary, the quadrennial presidential primary, and general election
22 days.

23 3 Effective Date. This act shall take effect 60 days after its passage.