

**Second Regular Session
Seventy-fifth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO**

ENGROSSED

*This Version Includes All Amendments Adopted
on Second Reading in the House of Introduction*

LLS NO. 26-0962.01 Rebecca Bayetti x4348

HOUSE BILL 26-1339

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 **CONCERNING A CHANGE IN THE NAME OF THE VOLUNTARY LEGAL**
102 **HOLIDAY OBSERVED ON MARCH 31 FROM "CESAR CHAVEZ**
103 **DAY" TO "FARM WORKERS DAY".**

Bill Summary

(Note: This summary applies to this bill as introduced and does not reflect any amendments that may be subsequently adopted. If this bill passes third reading in the house of introduction, a bill summary that applies to the reengrossed version of this bill will be available at <http://leg.colorado.gov>.)

March 31 is currently known as "Cesar Chavez Day" and may be voluntarily observed as a legal holiday. The bill changes this March 31 voluntary legal holiday to instead be known as "Farm Workers Day".

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.
Capital letters or bold & italic numbers indicate new material to be added to existing law.
Dashes through the words or numbers indicate deletions from existing law.

HOUSE
2nd Reading Unamended
March 24, 2026

1 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the State of Colorado:*

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly
3 finds and declares that:

4 (a) After years of discrimination and unfair labor practices, brave
5 farm workers and activists organized and marched hundreds of miles to
6 demand fair wages, dignity, and respect. In 1975, these efforts resulted in
7 the California "Agricultural Labor Relations Act", which was a
8 groundbreaking law protecting the right of farm workers to unionize.

9 (b) The Farm Workers Movement achieved:

10 (I) The first collective bargaining agreement between farm
11 workers and growers in the continental United States;

12 (II) The first union contracts requiring rest periods, clean drinking
13 water, hand washing facilities, and clothing protective against pesticide
14 exposure;

15 (III) The first ban on pesticide spraying while workers were in the
16 fields and the first ban on dichloro-diphenyl-trichloroethane, commonly
17 known as DDT, and other dangerous pesticides;

18 (IV) The first and only performing pension plan for retired farm
19 workers;

20 (V) The first union contracts regulating safety and sanitary
21 conditions in farm labor camps and banning discrimination in
22 employment and the sexual harassment of female workers;

23 (VI) The abolition of the use of "el cortito", the infamous
24 short-handled hoe that physically disabled generations of farm workers;
25 and

26 (VII) The extension of state coverage for unemployment,
27 disability, and workers' compensation to farm workers.

1 (2) The general assembly further finds and declares that:

2 (a) Given the deeply disturbing allegations of sexual abuse by
3 Cesar Chavez, the general assembly cannot, in good conscience, continue
4 to celebrate a state holiday that bears his name; and

5 (b) This decision is not about erasing history or diminishing the
6 contributions that have shaped Latino communities across the country. It
7 is about honoring the courage of the girls and women, including the
8 renowned labor leader and co-founder of the Farm Workers Movement,
9 Dolores Huerta, who suffered in silence for decades before bravely
10 speaking out.

11 (3) Therefore, it is appropriate to rename March 31 as "Farm
12 Workers Day" to honor the history of our farm workers and celebrate
13 their ongoing contributions to our communities, state, and country.

14 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, 24-11-112, **amend**
15 (1), (2), and (3) as follows:

16 **24-11-112. Farm Workers Day.**

17 (1) The thirty-first day of March in each year ~~the same being the~~
18 ~~anniversary of the birth of Cesar Estrada Chavez,~~ shall be known as
19 ~~"Cesar Chavez "~~FARM WORKERS Day" and appropriate observance may
20 be held by the public and in all public schools of the state in tribute to his
21 ~~unselfish commitment to~~ the principles of social justice and respect for
22 human dignity.

23 (2) The head of a state agency may allow an employee of the
24 agency to have a day off with pay on ~~Cesar Chavez~~ FARM WORKERS day
25 in lieu of any other legal holiday described in section 24-11-101 (1) that
26 occurs in the same state fiscal year on a weekday, other than a weekday
27 on which an election is held throughout the state, on which the state

1 agency is required to be open but on which the operations of the agency
2 are required to be maintained at only a minimum level.

3 (3) On ~~Cesar Chavez~~ FARM WORKERS day, each state agency shall
4 remain open and conduct the operations of the agency at no less than a
5 minimum level.

6 **SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly finds,
7 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate
8 preservation of the public peace, health, or safety or for appropriations for
9 the support and maintenance of the departments of the state and state
10 institutions.