

Second Regular Session  
Seventieth General Assembly  
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 16-0380.01 Esther van Mourik x4215

SENATE BILL 16-021

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SENATE SPONSORSHIP

**Donovan**, Aguilar, Guzman, Heath, Hodge, Johnston, Jones, Kefalas, Kerr, Merrifield, Newell, Steadman, Todd

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Senate Committees

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A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING RECOGNITION OF THE FOURTH MONDAY IN MARCH AS A  
102 STATE HOLIDAY, AND, IN CONNECTION THEREWITH,  
103 DESIGNATING THE FOURTH MONDAY IN MARCH AS "PUBLIC  
104 LANDS DAY".

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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://www.leg.state.co.us/billsummaries>.)*

The bill designates the fourth Monday in March as "Public Lands Day" to recognize the significant contributions that national public lands within Colorado make to wildlife, recreation, the economy, and to

Shading denotes HOUSE amendment. Double underlining denotes SENATE amendment.  
Capital letters indicate new material to be added to existing statute.  
Dashes through the words indicate deletions from existing statute.

Coloradans' quality of life.

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

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

4 (a) Colorado contains a variety of national public lands, including  
5 national parks, national forests, wildlife refuges, monuments, wilderness  
6 areas, and other public lands;

7 (b) Colorado's public lands reflect many of our most noble  
8 democratic ideals, because they are open and accessible to everyone, no  
9 matter how rich or poor;

10 (c) Colorado's public lands are defining features of the state and  
11 are the foundation for our quality of life by supporting the vitality of our  
12 communities, as well as representing Colorado's common heritage, fossils  
13 marking where dinosaurs roamed, ancient ruins and petroglyphs dotting  
14 the canyons, and historic mining towns nestled in steep-sided valleys;

15 (d) Colorado's public lands feature an amazingly diverse range of  
16 landscapes, from the snow-capped peaks of the Rocky Mountains down  
17 to rushing rivers, red rock canyons to grassy plains, grasslands, and  
18 tree-lined mountain valleys;

19 (e) Colorado's public lands provide many benefits to our residents  
20 and support a wide variety of activities, from recreational pursuits to  
21 natural resource development;

22 (f) Colorado's public lands have a substantial impact on economic  
23 development and jobs through mineral extraction, timber sales, ranching,  
24 tourism, and the outdoor recreation industry;

25 (g) Colorado's public lands contribute to Colorado's clean air and

1 clean water; and

2 (h) It is appropriate for the state to publicly observe and pay  
3 tribute to the importance of Colorado's public lands by observing Public  
4 Lands Day on the fourth Monday in March in each year.

5 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 24-11-113 as  
6 follows:

7 **24-11-113. Public lands day.** (1) THE FOURTH MONDAY IN  
8 MARCH IN EACH YEAR IS KNOWN AS "PUBLIC LANDS DAY", AND  
9 APPROPRIATE OBSERVANCE MAY BE HELD BY THE PUBLIC AND IN ALL  
10 PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF THE STATE IN TRIBUTE TO THE IMPORTANCE OF PUBLIC  
11 LANDS IN THE STATE.

12 (2) EACH STATE AGENCY MUST REMAIN OPEN AND CONDUCT THE  
13 OPERATIONS OF THE AGENCY ON PUBLIC LANDS DAY.

14 (3) ANNUALLY THE GOVERNOR SHALL ISSUE A PROCLAMATION  
15 CALLING FOR THE CELEBRATION OF PUBLIC LANDS DAY.

16 **SECTION 3. Safety clause.** The general assembly hereby finds,  
17 determines, and declares that this act is necessary for the immediate  
18 preservation of the public peace, health, and safety.