



# Legislative Council Staff

## Research Note

Version: Final

Date: 6/9/2017

### Bill Number

House Bill 17-1327

### Sponsors

*Representative Salazar*

### Short Title

*Repeal Columbus Day as State  
Legal Holiday*

### Research Analyst

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### Status

This research note reflects the final version of the bill, which was postponed indefinitely by the House Local Government Committee on May 3, 2017.

### Background

Columbus Day has been a federal holiday since 1934. Colorado was the first state to make Columbus Day a state holiday in 1907, and it currently stands as one of 10 legal holidays in the state.

Over the past few decades, a debate about the significance and message of Columbus Day has taken place in cities and states across the country. South Dakota became the first state to cancel the holiday in 1991. Numerous other cities and states have followed suit, including, in Colorado, Denver, Boulder, and Durango,

### House Action

***House State, Veterans, & Military Affairs Committee (April 26, 2017).*** At the committee hearing, a number of private citizens testified in support of the bill. The committee heard opposing testimony from private citizens and representatives from the Knights of Columbus and the Order Sons of Italy in America. The committee referred the bill to the House Local Government Committee.

***House Local Government Committee (May 3, 2017).*** At the committee hearing, private citizens and representatives from the American Indian Movement, and the First Nations Center

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spoke in favor of the bill. The committee heard opposing testimony from private citizens and representatives from the Knights of Columbus, Columbus Day Parade, and Sons of Italy. The committee voted to indefinitely postpone the bill.