

First Regular Session
Seventy-fourth General Assembly
STATE OF COLORADO

INTRODUCED

LLS NO. 23-1014.01 Amber Paoloemilio x5497

SENATE BILL 23-282

SENATE SPONSORSHIP

Gardner and Gonzales,

HOUSE SPONSORSHIP

Weissman and Soper,

Senate Committees
Judiciary

House Committees

A BILL FOR AN ACT

101 CONCERNING THE CREATION OF "JURY APPRECIATION 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>.)

The bill establishes an annual jury appreciation day on September 5 of each year.

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

2 **SECTION 1. Legislative declaration.** (1) The general assembly

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.

1 finds and declares that:

2 (a) The jury system is a cornerstone of Colorado's form of
3 government and is therefore a matter of statewide concern;

4 (b) The jury service system is important to democracy because of
5 the unbiased, impartial viewpoints that can be derived from our citizens
6 who are selected from a wide cross-section of society;

7 (c) Serving on a jury promotes civic participation, as it is the most
8 direct and impactful way for citizens to participate in and connect to the
9 state's system of government;

10 (d) Jury service is a civic duty, and jurors make important
11 sacrifices regarding personal time, family, and professional life to devote
12 the necessary time to serve as jurors;

13 (e) Jury service is important, and it benefits all residents of the
14 state;

15 (f) Our country's founders included the right to be tried by a jury
16 of our peers, a safeguard against tyranny, in the Bill of Rights;

17 (g) The first jury trial in the American colonies was held in
18 Plymouth, Massachusetts, in 1630; and

19 (h) September fifth commemorates a 1670 jury trial in which a
20 jury acquitted William Penn, who was facing the death penalty after
21 preaching to Quakers, a banned religion in England at the time. The jury
22 reached their verdict despite intimidation and imprisonment by the
23 English trial court, and the jury's independence and integrity were upheld
24 by an appellate court.

25 **SECTION 2.** In Colorado Revised Statutes, **add** 24-11-115 as
26 follows:

27 **24-11-115. Juror Appreciation Day.** (1) THE FIFTH DAY OF

1 SEPTEMBER IN EACH YEAR, THE SAME BEING THE ANNIVERSARY OF ONE OF
2 THE MOST FAMOUS JURY VERDICTS IN UNITED STATES HISTORY, IS KNOWN
3 AS "JURY APPRECIATION DAY". APPROPRIATE OBSERVANCE BY SUITABLE
4 MEANS MAY BE HELD BY THE PUBLIC, BY ALL JURY COMMISSIONERS, AND
5 IN ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS OF THE STATE TO RECOGNIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF
6 JURY SERVICE TO THE COMMUNITY, THE IMPORTANCE OF JURY TRIALS TO
7 THE STATE, AND THE GREAT CONTRIBUTION JURY TRIALS MAKE TO THE
8 CAUSE OF FREEDOM. ALL EFFORTS AND UNDERTAKINGS IN CELEBRATING
9 JURY APPRECIATION DAY MUST BE IN HARMONY WITH THE GENERAL
10 CHARACTER OF THE DAY SO ESTABLISHED.

11 (2) ANNUALLY, THE GOVERNOR SHALL ISSUE A PROCLAMATION
12 CALLING FOR THE RECOGNITION OF JURY APPRECIATION DAY.

13 (3) ON JURY APPRECIATION DAY, EACH STATE AGENCY SHALL
14 REMAIN OPEN AND CONDUCT THE OPERATIONS OF THE AGENCY AT NO LESS
15 THAN A MINIMUM LEVEL.

16 (4) A HOLIDAY ALLOWED PURSUANT TO THIS SECTION IS IN LIEU OF
17 A LEGAL HOLIDAY DESCRIBED IN SECTION 24-11-101 (1). THE TOTAL
18 NUMBER OF LEGAL HOLIDAYS IN A STATE FISCAL YEAR AVAILABLE TO AN
19 EMPLOYEE OF A STATE AGENCY IS NOT CHANGED BY THIS SECTION.

20 **SECTION 3. Act subject to petition - effective date.** This act
21 takes effect at 12:01 a.m. on the day following the expiration of the
22 ninety-day period after final adjournment of the general assembly; except
23 that, if a referendum petition is filed pursuant to section 1 (3) of article V
24 of the state constitution against this act or an item, section, or part of this
25 act within such period, then the act, item, section, or part will not take
26 effect unless approved by the people at the general election to be held in

- 1 November 2024 and, in such case, will take effect on the date of the
- 2 official declaration of the vote thereon by the governor.