

HB

78

<TARGET><BILL>HB 78</BILL><SUBJECT>HB
78</SUBJECT><COMM></COMM></TARGET>

Alaska State Legislature

Contact:
State Capitol Rm 24
Phone: (907) 465-3473
Representative.dean.westlake@akleg.gov



Special Committee on Arctic, Economic Development,
and Tourism, Chair
Resources Committee, Vice Chair
Community and Regional Affairs Committee
Special Committee on Energy

Representative Dean Westlake Sponsor Statement

House Bill 78 "Indigenous Peoples Day"

This bill establishes the second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples Day. Federally, the second Monday in October is Columbus Day. In our Alaskan context it is fitting that this day should also honor the first people of our state and of the Americas. In 2015 and 2016 Governor Walker proclaimed Indigenous Peoples Day as a one year observance. This bill establishes Indigenous Peoples Day as a yearly holiday that every Alaskan can be proud to celebrate.

Indigenous people are an integral part of the spiritual, cultural, linguistic, scientific and historical fabric of the State of Alaska and the Americas at large. We as a state recognize the unique contributions of Indigenous people as a whole, and of individual Alaska Natives for their role in making the state what it is today.

Alaska Native people have exercised agency in the development of the current systems of land management and traditional use of fish and game. Leaders like Shgúndi William Paul, Nanauq Eben Hopson, Kaaxgal.aat Elizabeth Peratrovich, Iggiagruk Willie Hensley and Dits'itnaan Katie John all worked within the legal system to establish a better and more just state for all Alaskans.

Alaska Native people have also contributed to the cultural life of Alaska. Through literature, both oral and written as well as in the visual arts, Alaska Native people have left an indelible mark on the state. Through this bill we recognize the contributions of the philosophers and teachers Angayuqaq Oscar Kawagley, the spiritual teacher Ƙaajaƙwtí Walter Soboleff, the poet and scholar Ƙeixwnéi Nora Marks Dauenhauer, the elders who have retained their languages, and passed on their culture, and the parents, grandparents, aunts, and uncles who teach their children what it means to be an indigenous person. This day of recognition also acknowledges the many artists, some whose names are unrecorded, whose work is used in ceremony and tribal custom—as well as respected and admired in world class museums and private collections.

Through this action, Alaska joins a growing number of states, cities and tribes that have adopted the second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples Day.

HB 78 INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY
Sponsor: Rep. Dean Westlake

House Action

Committee Referrals: Community and Regional Affairs

Committee Recs: DP – Westlake, Drummond, Fansler, Parish
NR – Talerico, Rauscher

Floor Action: Passed
Yeas: 31
Nays: 7
Excused: 2

Senate Action

Committee Referrals Community and Regional Affairs
State Affairs

Committee Recs: CRA - DP: Bishop, Hoffman, Gardner, MacKinnon
STA -

Bill Analysis:

This bill would establish the second Monday of October of each year as Indigenous Peoples Day.

Previous Committee Action:

This bill was heard in State Affairs on 3/28/2017. Rep. Westlake gave an overview. There was invited testimony. Elders from the Alaska Native Sisterhood were present.

Fiscal Notes:

Zero from Department of Administration

Commentary:

Still needs public testimony and committee comments. Move to Senate Rules.



DOYON
Limited®

LEADER in All We Do

January 31, 2017

Sent Via Electronic Mail
Representative Dean Westlake
State Capitol Room 24
Alaska State Legislature
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: Doyon Support for HB 78 Indigenous Peoples Day

Dear Representative Westlake,

This letter is a written statement of support for HB 78, a bill to establish the second Monday in October each year as Indigenous Peoples Day. Doyon's mission is to enhance our position as a financially strong Native Corporation in order to promote the social and economic well-being of our shareholders, strengthen our Native way of life, and enhance our land and resources.

Doyon, Limited is the state-chartered Alaska Native Corporation established pursuant to the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act for Interior Alaska. Currently we have over 19,300 shareholders, most of whom live here in Alaska.

Doyon welcomed Governor Walker's proclamation designated October 12, 2015 and again October 10, 2016 as Indigenous Peoples Day, and we further would welcome an annual celebration which recognizes not only the history of Alaska Native people and Alaska's history, but also current contributions by Indigenous people to art, culture, policy, knowledge, traditions, and achievement.

Thank you for the work you do in the interest of Alaskans, and if you have any questions concerning this recommendation, please contact our office at (907) 459-2092.

Sincerely,

Aaron M. Schutt
President and CEO
Doyon, Limited

Cc:

Representative Bryce Edgmon, Speaker of the House
Representative Chris Tuck, House Majority Leader
Representative Charisse Millet, House Minority Leader



February 17, 2017

Sent Via Electronic Mail
The Honorable Dean Westlake
Representative, District 40
State Capitol, Rm. 24
Juneau, AK 99801
elizabeth.rexford@akleg.gov

Re: HB 78, Indigenous Peoples Day

Dear Representative Westlake:

The Alaska Federation of Natives writes to express our wholehearted support of HB 78, Indigenous Peoples Day.

AFN is the largest state wide Native organization in Alaska. Our membership includes 12 for-profit regional corporations, 12 regional not-for-profit organizations, 152 village for-profit corporations and 152 Indian tribes. Our mission, among other things, is to advance and enhance the voice of the Native community on issues of mutual concern such as pending state legislation.

HB 78 will not replace Columbus Day, a federal holiday; rather it will make Indigenous Peoples Day a state holiday, co-locating it on the second Monday of October. Four other states are considering similar legislation this year.

Congratulations on introducing, and securing House passage of, this long overdue measure. Alaska Native peoples deserve to be formally recognized for the contributions they have made—and continue to make—to our great state. We look forward to helping you and your colleagues advance HB 78 in the Senate.

Sincerely,
ALASKA FEDERATION OF NATIVES

Julie Kitka
President

Cc: Board of Directors



SEALASKA HERITAGE

January 24, 2017

House State Affairs Committee
120 4th Street
Juneau, AK 99801

Re: HB 78 Indigenous Peoples Day

Dear Committee Members,

While we recognize that Christopher Columbus was among the first Europeans to land on the shores of the North American Continent, it is time for Alaska to eliminate Columbus Day and recognize the Indigenous Peoples of Alaska. The rich culture and Indigenous knowledge of Alaska Natives have been of great influence in Alaska and it is time to celebrate and recognize those cultures by establishing the second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples Day.

Sealaska Heritage Institute (SHI) is a regional Native nonprofit founded in 1980. The institute's mission is to perpetuate and enhance the Tlingit, Haida, and Tsimshian cultures of Southeast Alaska. Its goal is to promote cultural diversity and cross-cultural understanding. SHI has worked for over three decades to preserve and enhance the culture and language of Native Peoples. We have promoted the integration of culture and language into schools because of the benefits it provides to Native Students. We also believe that these efforts support cultural diversity that make Alaska a richer state.

Governor Walker started the movement toward establishing Indigenous Peoples Day in 2015, and I believe that we should make this change permanent. The past few years we have seen continued support of Alaska Native Heritage with the signing of HB 216 changing the State Language from English to include 20 Alaska Native Languages as official state languages and more initiatives to support Alaska Native education, language and culture.

The contributions by Alaska Natives to the State of Alaska have been significant and it is time we acknowledge and celebrate those contributions. We respectfully urge you to adopt HB 78 establishing the second Monday in October as Indigenous Peoples Day.

Sincerely,

Rosita Worl, Ph.D.
President





Municipality of Anchorage

Ethan Berkowitz, Mayor

January 27, 2017

House State Affairs Committee
Attn: Representative Kreiss-Tomkins
c/o Representative Westlake
State Capitol, Room 411
Juneau, AK 99801

Dear Chair Kreiss-Tomkins,

As Mayor of Anchorage, I support Representative Westlake's effort to create an Indigenous Peoples Day as an annual day of honor for Alaska's first peoples. My administration is proud to have designated the second Monday of October as Indigenous Peoples Day, and we appreciate that Representative Westlake is endeavoring to make that an annual tradition on the state level.

As Alaska's "biggest village," with more than 23,000 Native Alaskans calling Anchorage home, the Municipality of Anchorage recognizes the important role that Alaska Native communities and traditions have in our city's identity.

Representative Westlake's Indigenous Peoples Day legislation will encourage all Alaskans to support this annual celebration and remind all of us about the strength of Alaska's roots, and the values to guide us toward our future.

Regards,



Ethan Berkowitz

Alaska Regional Coalition

Representing 100 Communities

February 3, 2017

Dear Senators,

The Alaska Regional Coalition strongly supports the passage of House Bill 78, Indigenous Peoples Day. The indigenous people of Alaska are an integral part of the spiritual, cultural, and historic fabric of Alaska. A yearly day of celebration recognizes not only the history of Alaska Native people, but our current contributions to art, culture, policy, knowledge, traditions and achievement.

The point of Indigenous Peoples Day is not to erase Columbus from the history books or collective memory, but to change the conversation to talk about his impact on present-day Indigenous communities as part of the healing process. Through these conversations we become better global citizens who are aware of the struggles and the experiences of other people and our collective past.

As cities across the nation embrace the second Monday of October as a day to reflect on indigenous heritage and resiliency, it makes sense that Alaska, the state with the largest number of federally recognized Tribes, be among the first to make a permanent proclamation of support for its first citizens.

We urge you to support HB78.

Sincerely,



Central Council of the Tlingit Haida
Indian Tribes of Alaska



Kawerak, Inc.



Tanana Chiefs Conference



Chugachmiut



Maniilaq Association

Sponsored By: Assemblymember Sykes
Adopted: 03/01/16

**MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH
RESOLUTION SERIAL NO. 16-006**

A RESOLUTION OF THE MATANUSKA-SUSITNA BOROUGH ASSEMBLY
RECOGNIZING THE SECOND MONDAY IN OCTOBER AS INDIGENOUS PEOPLES'
DAY.

WHEREAS, the Borough recognizes the historical importance
of Indigenous Peoples and their lands that later became known as
the Americas, including Alaska and the Borough; and

WHEREAS, the Indigenous Peoples of Alaska have occupied the
lands since time immemorial, including the homelands and
communities of the Indigenous Peoples of the Borough region such
as the Ahtna and Denaina Athabascans; and

WHEREAS, cultures, knowledge, and values of the Indigenous
Peoples have often not received recognition as those who came
into indigenous areas from other places; and

WHEREAS, we value the many contributions made to our
communities through Indigenous Peoples' knowledge, history,
labor, technology, science, philosophy, arts, and the deep
cultural contribution that has substantially shaped the
character of Alaska and the Borough; and

WHEREAS, the Borough recognizes the importance of the fast
growing population of Alaskans with indigenous heritage moving
into the Borough from all over Alaska resulting in populations
comprising one of the largest "villages" in Alaska; and

WHEREAS, systematic racism of the Indigenous Peoples of Alaska or any Alaskan of any origin is opposed; and

WHEREAS, policies and practices are needed to reflect the experiences of Indigenous Peoples, that ensure greater access and opportunity, and honor our nation's indigenous roots, history, and contributions; and

WHEREAS, Indigenous Peoples' Day was first proposed by the International Conference on Discrimination Against Indigenous Populations in the Americas and was sponsored by the United Nations at the 1977 Geneva Convention; and

WHEREAS, in 2011 the Affiliated Tribes of Northwest Indians, representing 59 Tribes from Washington, Oregon, Idaho, Northern California, Western Montana, and some Alaskan Tribes approved Resolution No. 11-57 in support of changing Columbus Day on the 2 Monday of October to Indigenous Peoples' Day; and

WHEREAS, the Borough joins the State of Alaska and a growing number of municipalities that have recognized the second Monday of October as Indigenous Peoples' Day, creating an opportunity to promote appreciation, tolerance, understanding, friendship, and partnerships among Indigenous Peoples and all Alaskans.


NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, that the Matanuska-Susitna Borough proclaims the second Monday in October each year as Indigenous Peoples' Day and encourages all Alaskans to celebrate

the thriving cultures and values of the Indigenous Peoples of our region and to continue efforts to promote the well-being and recognition of Alaska's Indigenous Peoples living in the Matanuska-Susitna Borough.

ADOPTED by the Matanuska-Susitna Borough Assembly this 1 day of March, 2015.


VERN HALTER, Borough Mayor

ATTEST:


LONNIE R. McKECHNIE, CMC, Borough Clerk
(SEAL)

YES: Sykes, Beck, Colligan, Mayfield, and Doty
NO: McKee, and Kowalke

Fiscal Note

State of Alaska
2017 Legislative Session

Bill Version: HB 78
Fiscal Note Number: _____
() Publish Date: _____

Identifier: HB078-DOA-FAC-01-27-17
Title: INDIGENOUS PEOPLES DAY
Sponsor: WESTLAKE
Requester: (H) CRA

Department: Department of Administration
Appropriation: General Services
Allocation: Facilities
OMB Component Number: 2429

Expenditures/Revenues

Note: Amounts do not include inflation unless otherwise noted below. (Thousands of Dollars)

	FY2018 Appropriation Requested	Included in Governor's FY2018 Request	Out-Year Cost Estimates					
			FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022	FY 2023
OPERATING EXPENDITURES								
Personal Services								
Travel								
Services								
Commodities								
Capital Outlay								
Grants & Benefits								
Miscellaneous								
Total Operating	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Fund Source (Operating Only)

None								
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Positions

Full-time								
Part-time								
Temporary								

Change in Revenues

None								
Total	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0	0.0

Estimated SUPPLEMENTAL (FY2017) cost: 0.0 *(separate supplemental appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

Estimated CAPITAL (FY2018) cost: 0.0 *(separate capital appropriation required)*
(discuss reasons and fund source(s) in analysis section)

ASSOCIATED REGULATIONS

Does the bill direct, or will the bill result in, regulation changes adopted by your agency? No
If yes, by what date are the regulations to be adopted, amended or repealed?

Why this fiscal note differs from previous version:

Not applicable; initial version.

Prepared By:	Kevin Brooks, Director	Phone:	(907)465-4889
Division:	Shared Services of Alaska	Date:	01/27/2017 03:00 PM
Approved By:	Sheldon Fisher, Commissioner	Date:	01/27/17
Agency:	Administration		

FISCAL NOTE ANALYSIS

STATE OF ALASKA
2017 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

BILL NO. HB 78

Analysis

This bill establishes the second Monday of October each year to honor indigenous people. The Department of Administration, Division of General Services does not anticipate any fiscal impact from the proposed legislation.