

SENATE RESOLUTION No. 50

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 13, 2020

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH PENNACCHIO

District 26 (Essex, Morris and Passaic)

Senator ANTHONY M. BUCCO

District 25 (Morris and Somerset)

SYNOPSIS

Supports preservation of Columbus Day as federal and State holiday.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 5/20/2021)

1 **A SENATE RESOLUTION** supporting the preservation of Columbus
2 Day as a federal and State holiday.

3
4 **WHEREAS**, The voyage of Christopher Columbus, which culminated
5 with his landing in the New World on October 12, 1492, is an
6 historic event that has been celebrated in the United States since the
7 colonial period; and

8 **WHEREAS**, In 1892, on the 400th anniversary of Columbus's landing,
9 President Benjamin Harrison issued the first official proclamation
10 urging United States citizens to celebrate the day to honor
11 Columbus' arrival in the Americas, President Franklin Delano
12 Roosevelt, in April of 1934, proclaimed Columbus Day a federal
13 holiday, and since 1970, this country has observed Columbus Day
14 as a federal holiday on the second Monday in October of each year;
15 and

16 **WHEREAS**, Italian-Americans observe Columbus Day as a celebration
17 of their heritage, and as a day to recognize the contributions of their
18 ancestors and culture to America and the world; and

19 **WHEREAS**, Columbus Day is celebrated throughout the United States
20 with many observances and events, the largest of which is the
21 Columbus Day Parade in New York City, which was first held in
22 1792 and has been held annually since 1929; and

23 **WHEREAS**, Unico National, the nation's largest Italian-American
24 service and charitable organization based in Fairfield, New Jersey,
25 the Order Sons of Italy in America, the New Jersey Italian and
26 Italian-American Heritage Commission, and many other
27 organizations are fighting to preserve the long-standing tradition of
28 celebrating Columbus Day as a day significant not only to Italian-
29 Americans but to all Americans; and

30 **WHEREAS**, It is fitting and proper for this House to recognize the
31 significance of Columbus's arrival in the Americas and to honor
32 and celebrate this historic achievement; now, therefore,

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34 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate of the State of New Jersey:*

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36 1. This House supports preserving Columbus Day as a federal
37 and State holiday.

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39 2. Copies of this resolution, as filed with the Secretary of State,
40 shall be transmitted by the Secretary of the Senate to the leaders of
41 Unico National, the Order Sons of Italy in America, and the New
42 Jersey Italian and Italian-American Heritage Commission, to the
43 President of the United States, and to each member of Congress
44 elected from this State.

STATEMENT

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This resolution supports preserving Columbus Day as a federal and State holiday. Americans have celebrated Columbus's voyage, which culminated in his arrival in the Americas on October 12, 1492, since the colonial period. Since 1970, the federal government has recognized Columbus Day as a federal holiday taking place on the second Monday in October of each year. This House recognizes the significance of Columbus's arrival in the New World and expresses its support of the Columbus Day holiday as a day to honor and celebrate Columbus's historic achievement.