

## Legal State Holidays

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### Issue

This report provides an overview of legal state holidays around the country.

### Summary

States have the authority to determine which days to designate as state holidays. These holidays can have a significant impact on the state, such as the closure of state government, paid vacation for state employees, closure or early dismissal at schools, and impacts on banking hours. Holidays may be declared through (1) legislative enactment; (2) gubernatorial declarations or proclamations; or (3) incorporation of federally-declared holidays or presidential declarations or proclamations.

Table 1, below, provides links to information on each state's current holidays.

### Legislative Enactment

Every state other than Georgia authorizes specific holidays through legislative enactment by adding the holiday to a statutory list (see Table 1). These holidays are different from days of observance which are largely ceremonial in nature.

States generally maintain one statute that lists or defines all legal state holidays. However, some states maintain separate statutes describing the impact of the holiday on different establishments. For example, in Illinois, there are multiple statutes defining legal state holidays as they apply to various sectors: elections ([10 ILCS 5/1-6](#)), state contracts ([30 ILCS](#)

[500/15-45](#)), schools ([105 ILCS 5/24-2](#)), higher education ([110 ILCS 70/45a](#)), and banks ([205 ILCS 630/17](#)).

The statutes listed in Table 1, below, are the statutes of broadest application (usually listing the holidays that apply to all of state government).

## Gubernatorial Declarations/Proclamations

We found that about half of the states explicitly authorize the governor to declare or proclaim additional legal state holidays. Although states generally codify this power alongside the statutory state holidays listed in Table 1, some states codify a separate statutory power for the governor (e.g., [Ark. Code Ann. § 1-5-103](#)). We found the power the governor is entrusted with varies. Governors may (1) be unrestricted; (2) be limited to declaring certain types of days such as fasting, thanksgiving, prayer, mourning, religious observance, or special observance; or (3) declare a holiday if already federally declared by the president.

**Table 1: Annual Legal State Holidays**

State (linked to most recently available state holiday list)	Citation for Statutory Holidays	State (linked to most recently available state holiday list)	Citation for Statutory Holidays
<a href="#">Alabama</a>	<a href="#">Ala. Code § 1-3-8</a>	<a href="#">Montana</a>	<a href="#">Mont. Code Ann. § 1-1-216</a>
<a href="#">Alaska</a>	<a href="#">Alaska Stat. § 44.12.010</a>	<a href="#">Nebraska</a>	<a href="#">Neb. Rev. Stat. § 25-2221</a>
<a href="#">Arizona</a>	<a href="#">Ariz. Rev. Stat. § 1-301</a>	<a href="#">Nevada</a>	<a href="#">Nev. Rev. Stat. § 236.015</a>
<a href="#">Arkansas</a>	<a href="#">Ark. Code Ann. § 1-5-101</a>	<a href="#">New Hampshire</a>	<a href="#">N.H. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 288.1</a>
<a href="#">California</a>	<a href="#">Cal. Gov't Code 6700</a>	<a href="#">New Jersey</a>	<a href="#">N.J. Stat. Ann. § 36:1-1</a>
<a href="#">Colorado</a>	<a href="#">Colo. Rev. Stat. § 24-11-101</a>	<a href="#">New Mexico</a>	<a href="#">N.M. Stat. Ann. § 12-5-2</a>
<a href="#">Connecticut</a>	<a href="#">Conn. Gen. Stat. § 2-1-4</a>	<a href="#">New York</a>	<a href="#">N.Y. Gen. Constr. § 2-24</a>
<a href="#">Delaware</a>	<a href="#">Del. Code Ann. tit. 1 § 501</a>	<a href="#">North Carolina</a>	<a href="#">N.C. Gen. Stat. § 103-4</a>
<a href="#">Florida</a>	<a href="#">Fla. Stat. § 683.01</a>	<a href="#">North Dakota</a>	<a href="#">N.D. Cent. Code § 1-03-01</a>
<a href="#">Georgia</a>	<a href="#">Ga. Code Ann. § 1-4-1</a>	<a href="#">Ohio</a>	<a href="#">Ohio Rev. Code Ann. § 1.14</a>
<a href="#">Hawaii</a>	<a href="#">Haw. Rev. Stat. § 8-1</a>	<a href="#">Oklahoma</a>	<a href="#">Okla. Stat. tit. 25 § 82.1</a>
<a href="#">Idaho</a>	<a href="#">Idaho Code § 73-108</a>	<a href="#">Oregon</a>	<a href="#">Or. Rev. Stat. § 187.01</a>
<a href="#">Illinois</a>	<a href="#">105 ILCS 5/24-2</a>	<a href="#">Pennsylvania</a>	<a href="#">44 Pa. Cons. Stat § 11</a>
<a href="#">Indiana</a>	<a href="#">Ind. Code § 1-1-9-1</a>	<a href="#">Rhode Island</a>	<a href="#">25 R.I. Gen. Laws § 25-1-1</a>
<a href="#">Iowa</a>	<a href="#">Iowa Code § 1C.1</a>	<a href="#">South Carolina</a>	<a href="#">S.C. Code Ann. § 53-5-10</a>
<a href="#">Kansas</a>	<a href="#">Kan. Stat. Ann. § 35-107</a>	<a href="#">South Dakota</a>	<a href="#">S.D. Codified Laws § 1-5-1</a>
<a href="#">Kentucky</a>	<a href="#">Ky. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 2.110</a>	<a href="#">Tennessee</a>	<a href="#">Tenn. Code Ann. § 15-1-101</a>

Table 1 (continued)

State (linked to most recently available state holiday list)	Citation for Statutory Holidays	State (linked to most recently available state holiday list)	Citation for Statutory Holidays
<a href="#">Louisiana</a>	<a href="#">La. Stat. Ann. § 1:55</a>	<a href="#">Texas</a>	<a href="#">Tex. Gov't Code Ann. § 662.003</a>
<a href="#">Maine</a>	<a href="#">Me. Stat. tit. 4 § 23-1051</a>	<a href="#">Utah</a>	<a href="#">Utah Code Ann. § 63G-1-201</a>
<a href="#">Maryland</a>	<a href="#">Md. Code Gen. Prov. § 1-111</a>	<a href="#">Vermont</a>	<a href="#">Vt. Stat. Ann. tit. 1 § 371</a>
<a href="#">Massachusetts</a>	<a href="#">Mass. Gen. Laws ch. 4 § 7</a>	<a href="#">Virginia</a>	<a href="#">Va. Code Ann. § 2.2-3300</a>
<a href="#">Michigan</a>	<a href="#">Mich. Comp. Laws § 435.101</a>	<a href="#">Washington</a>	<a href="#">Wash. Rev. Code § 1.16.050</a>
<a href="#">Minnesota</a>	<a href="#">Minn. Stat. § 645.44</a>	<a href="#">West Virginia</a>	<a href="#">W. Va. Code § 2-2-1</a>
<a href="#">Mississippi</a>	<a href="#">Miss. Code Ann. § 3-3-7</a>	<a href="#">Wisconsin</a>	<a href="#">Wis. Stat. § 995.20</a>
<a href="#">Missouri</a>	<a href="#">Mo. Rev. Stat. § 9.010</a>	<a href="#">Wyoming</a>	<a href="#">Wyo. Stat. Ann. § 8-4-101</a>

## Federal Holidays and Declarations/Proclamations

Federal law establishes 11 days as annual legal federal holidays. Additionally, January 20 (Inauguration Day) is a federal holiday for the D.C.-area every four years ([5 U.S.C. § 6103](#)). Most states recognize all 11 annual holidays as state holidays, or legally incorporate them (e.g., Georgia), but not all. For example, several states do not, or no longer, recognize Columbus Day as a legal state holiday.

Additionally, in about one-third of states, a presidentially-proclaimed or -declared holiday may also be considered a legal state holiday. Some states limit this to days declared or proclaimed for fasting, thanksgiving, prayer, or religious observance.

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