

1 **STATE COMMEMORATIVE PERIOD AMENDMENTS**

2 2024 GENERAL SESSION

3 STATE OF UTAH

4 **Chief Sponsor: Daniel McCay**

5 House Sponsor: Ryan D. Wilcox

7 **LONG TITLE**

8 **General Description:**

9 This bill amends provisions related to commemorative periods.

10 **Highlighted Provisions:**

11 This bill:

12 ▶ modifies annual commemorations to include a day of remembrance for the persons
13 killed and injured in the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001.

14 **Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

15 None

16 **Other Special Clauses:**

17 None

18 **Utah Code Sections Affected:**

19 AMENDS:

20 **63G-1-401**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2023, Chapters 57, 351 and 472

22 *Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

23 Section 1. Section **63G-1-401** is amended to read:

24 **63G-1-401. Commemorative periods.**

25 (1) As used in this section, "commemorative period" means a special observance
26 declared by the governor that annually recognizes and honors a culturally or historically
27 significant day, week, month, or other time period in the state.



28 (2) (a) The governor may declare a commemorative period by issuing a declaration.

29 (b) The governor shall maintain a list of all commemorative periods declared by the
30 governor.

31 (3) (a) The governor's declaration of a commemorative period expires the year
32 immediately following the day on which the governor issues the declaration.

33 (b) Subsection (3)(a) does not prevent the governor from redeclaring a commemorative
34 period before or after the commemorative period expires.

35 (4) Notwithstanding Subsections (2) and (3), the following days shall be
36 commemorated annually:

37 (a) Utah History Day at the Capitol, on the Friday immediately following the fourth
38 Monday in January, to encourage citizens of the state, including students, to participate in
39 activities that recognize Utah's history;

40 (b) Day of Remembrance for Incarceration of Japanese Americans, on February 19, in
41 remembrance of the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II;

42 (c) Utah State Flag Day, on March 9;

43 (d) Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day, on March 29;

44 (e) Utah Railroad Workers Day, on May 10;

45 (f) Dandy-Walker Syndrome Awareness Day, on May 11;

46 (g) Armed Forces Day, on the third Saturday in May, in honor of men and women who
47 are serving or have served in the United States Armed Forces around the world in defense of
48 freedom;

49 (h) Arthrogyrosis Multiplex Congenita Awareness Day, on June 30;

50 (i) Navajo Code Talker Day, on August 14;

51 (j) Rachael Runyan/Missing and Exploited Children's Day, on August 26, the
52 anniversary of the day three-year-old Rachael Runyan was kidnaped from a playground in
53 Sunset, Utah, to:

54 (i) encourage individuals to make child safety a priority;

55 (ii) remember the importance of continued efforts to reunite missing children with their
56 families; and

57 (iii) honor Rachael Runyan and all Utah children who have been abducted or exploited;

58 (k) September 11th Day of Remembrance, on September 11, in honor and

59 remembrance of the persons killed and injured in the terrorist attacks on September 11, 2001;

60 [~~(k)~~] (l) Constitution Day, on September 17, to invite all Utah adults and Utah school
61 children to read directly from the United States Constitution and other primary sources, and for
62 students to be taught principles from the United States Constitution that include federalism,
63 checks and balances, separation of powers, popular sovereignty, limited government, and the
64 necessary and proper, commerce, and supremacy clauses;

65 [~~(h)~~] (m) POW/MIA Recognition Day, on the third Friday in September;

66 [~~(m)~~] (n) Diwali, on the fifteenth day of the Hindu lunisolar month of Kartik, known as
67 Lakshmi puja, or the Hindu festival of lights;

68 [~~(n)~~] (o) Victims of Communism Memorial Day, on November 7;

69 [~~(o)~~] (p) Indigenous People Day, on the Monday immediately preceding Thanksgiving;
70 and

71 [~~(p)~~] (q) Bill of Rights Day, on December 15.

72 (5) The Department of Veterans and Military Affairs shall coordinate activities, special
73 programs, and promotional information to heighten public awareness and involvement relating
74 to Subsections (4)(g) and [~~(h)~~] (m).

75 (6) The month of April shall be commemorated annually as Clean Out the Medicine
76 Cabinet Month to:

77 (a) recognize the urgent need to make Utah homes and neighborhoods safe from
78 prescription medication abuse and poisonings by the proper home storage and disposal of
79 prescription and over-the-counter medications; and

80 (b) educate citizens about the permanent medication disposal sites in Utah listed on
81 useonlyasdirected.org that allow disposal throughout the year.

82 (7) The second full week of April shall be commemorated annually as Animal Care
83 and Control Appreciation Week to recognize and increase awareness within the community of
84 the services that animal care and control professionals provide.

85 (8) The first full week of May shall be commemorated annually as State Water Week
86 to recognize the importance of water conservation, quality, and supply in the state.

87 (9) The third full week of June shall be commemorated annually as Workplace Safety
88 Week to heighten public awareness regarding the importance of safety in the workplace.

89 (10) The second Friday and Saturday in August shall be commemorated annually as

90 Utah Fallen Heroes Days to:

91 (a) honor fallen heroes who, during service in the military or public safety, have
92 sacrificed their lives to protect the country and the citizens of the state; and

93 (b) encourage political subdivisions to acknowledge and honor fallen heroes.

94 (11) The third full week in August shall be commemorated annually as Drowsy

95 Driving Awareness Week to:

96 (a) educate the public about the relationship between fatigue and driving performance;
97 and

98 (b) encourage the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Transportation to
99 recognize and promote educational efforts on the dangers of drowsy driving.

100 (12) The month of September shall be commemorated annually as American Founders
101 and Constitution Month to:

102 (a) encourage all civic, fraternal, and religious organizations, and public and private
103 educational institutions, to recognize and observe this occasion through appropriate programs,
104 teaching, meetings, services, or celebrations in which state, county, and local governmental
105 officials are invited to participate; and

106 (b) invite all Utah school children to read directly from the United States Constitution
107 and other primary sources, and to be taught principles from the United States Constitution that
108 include federalism, checks and balances, separation of powers, popular sovereignty, limited
109 government, and the necessary and proper, commerce, and supremacy clauses.

110 (13) The third full week of September shall be commemorated annually as Gang
111 Prevention Awareness Week.

112 (14) The month of October shall be commemorated annually as Italian-American
113 Heritage Month.

114 (15) The month of November shall be commemorated annually as American Indian
115 Heritage Month.

116 (16) The first full week of December shall be commemorated annually as Avalanche
117 Awareness Week to:

118 (a) educate the public about avalanche awareness and safety;

119 (b) encourage collaborative efforts to decrease annual avalanche accidents and
120 fatalities; and

121 (c) honor Utah residents who have lost their lives in avalanches, including those who
122 lost their lives working to prevent avalanches.

123 Section 2. **Effective date.**

124 This bill takes effect on May 1, 2024.