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## FISCAL IMPACT REPORT

**SPONSOR** Harrison **ORIGINAL DATE** 02/27/07  
**LAST UPDATED** \_\_\_\_\_ **HB** 1200  
**SHORT TITLE** REPLACE COLUMBUS DAY WITH "INDIGENOUS DAY" **SB** \_\_\_\_\_  
**ANALYST** Hanika Ortiz

### ESTIMATED ADDITIONAL OPERATING BUDGET IMPACT (dollars in thousands)

	FY07	FY08	FY09	3 Year Total Cost	Recurring or Non-Rec	Fund Affected
<b>Total</b>		NFI				

(Parenthesis ( ) Indicate Expenditure Decreases)

### SOURCES OF INFORMATION

LFC Files

### SUMMARY

#### Synopsis of Bill

House Bill 1200 proposes to amend Section 12-5-2 NMSA 1978 by replacing “Columbus Day” with “Indigenous Day” in statute. The bill amends 57-12-21 NMSA 1978 with clean-up language; and, further provides that “Indigenous Day” be considered a “business day” for the purposes of that section and be observed as a legal bank holiday with the same consideration as other legal holidays observed in New Mexico.

### FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There will be a minimal administrative cost for statewide update, distribution and documentation of any statutory changes.

### SIGNIFICANT ISSUES

Other State designated legal holidays include: New Year ’s Day; Martin Luther King, Jr’s birthday; President’s day; Memorial Day; Independence Day; Labor Day; Veteran’s Day; Thanksgiving Day; and, Christmas Day. There is no holiday specifically set aside in New Mexico to honor a great Native American or Native Americans or “indigenous” peoples.

Columbus' voyages across the Atlantic Ocean began a European effort at exploration and colonization of the Western Hemisphere. While history places great significance on his first voyage of 1492, he did not actually reach the mainland until his third voyage in 1498. Likewise, he was not the earliest European explorer to reach the Americas, as there are accounts of

European transatlantic contact prior to 1492.

PED reports that the significance of early European explorations to the changes made in the world during the 15<sup>th</sup> Century and our broader and more enlightened understanding of events by today's standards call for a broader understanding of the celebration. Doing so might be an opportunity for New Mexicans to strengthen their knowledge and understanding and correct misunderstandings about history. It will allow New Mexicans to celebrate a more universal recognition of accomplishments since the period of exploration that is symbolized by Columbus.

### **PERFORMANCE IMPLICATIONS**

President Roosevelt set aside Columbus Day as a day marking Christopher Columbus' first voyage to the Americas in 1492. Since 1971, the holiday has been commemorated in the U.S. on the second Monday in October. However, it is generally only observed today by banks, the Post Office, and most governments and schools. Most businesses remain open on full schedules.

### **CONFLICT, DUPLICATION, COMPANIONSHIP, RELATIONSHIP**

Relates to HM 27; providing reasons why New Mexico should replace “Columbus Day” with “Indigenous Day”.

### **OTHER SUBSTANTIVE ISSUES**

Some people oppose Columbus Day, claiming his achievements are not worthy of a holiday. In recent years, the holiday has been rejected by some people who view it as a celebration of conquest and genocide by the Spaniards. In its place, Indigenous Peoples Day is sometimes celebrated. In the U.S. Virgin Islands, "Puerto Rico-Virgin Islands Friendship Day" is celebrated on the same day as Columbus Day, due to the controversy surrounding the atrocities committed against the indigenous peoples of the present-day Caribbean during the Spanish colonization of the New World. In the state of South Dakota, the day is officially a state holiday known as "Native American Day", not Columbus Day.

Some have argued that the responsibility of contemporary governments and their citizens for allegedly ongoing acts of genocide against Native Americans are masked by positive Columbus myths and celebrations. These critics argue that a particular understanding of the legacy of Columbus has been used to legitimize their actions, and it is this misuse of history that must be exposed.

### **ALTERNATIVES**

Following South Dakota's observance and replace “Indigenous Day” with “Native American Day”.

### **WHAT WILL BE THE CONSEQUENCES OF NOT ENACTING THIS BILL**

Columbus Day will continue to be observed as a legal holiday in New Mexico; and, like all other holidays some will celebrate it and others may not.