

108TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2808

To amend title 5, United States Code, to make the date of the signing of the United States Constitution a legal public holiday, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 15, 2004

Mr. BYRD introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary

A BILL

To amend title 5, United States Code, to make the date of the signing of the United States Constitution a legal public holiday, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Celebrate the United
5 States Constitution Day Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) The people of the United States enjoy nu-
2 merous public holidays to commemorate and honor
3 their common past.

4 (2) The people of the United States enjoy such
5 holidays to recognize and remember the men and
6 women in uniform, to pay tribute to the American
7 worker, and to honor the discoverers, founders, and
8 leaders of the United States.

9 (3) The text of the United States Constitution
10 symbolizes one of the Founding Fathers' greatest
11 accomplishments, memorializes the heralded past of
12 the United States, and portends the boundless fu-
13 ture of our Nation.

14 (4) The United States Constitution is not a
15 dead piece of parchment, but a revered and living
16 document, capable of inspiring a nation to achieve
17 seemingly impossible dreams and irrepressible hopes.

18 (5) The United States is best served when its
19 citizens participate fully in their government.

20 (6) There should be established a "Constitution
21 Day" to commemorate the creation and signing of
22 the United States Constitution and to foster appre-
23 ciation of its text.

24 (7) There should be appropriated Federal funds
25 to support the activities of "Constitution Day".

1 **SEC. 3. PURPOSES.**

2 It is the purpose of this Act to—

3 (1) commemorate the creation and signing of
4 the United States Constitution on September 17,
5 1787;

6 (2) call for public readings of the United States
7 Constitution in cities large and small, by people of
8 all ages, throughout the United States in schools
9 and churches, and all other suitable places;

10 (3) encourage friends and families to join to-
11 gether to review and discuss the text of the United
12 States Constitution, the world's oldest codified con-
13 stitution, to better understand its meaning to our
14 Nation;

15 (4) celebrate the collective wisdom of provisions
16 of the United States Constitution with appropriate
17 ceremonies, including patriotic displays, presen-
18 tations, parades, poetry, and in song;

19 (5) foster greater reverence for, and under-
20 standing of, the time-honored terms of the text of
21 the United States Constitution;

22 (6) enhance awareness not only of overarching
23 themes of the United States Constitution, but also
24 its particular provisions, which create a social con-
25 tract among citizens and set forth that the Govern-
26 ment receives its powers from the people;

1 (7) expose all people of the United States and
2 citizens of other nations to the genius of the con-
3 cepts and teachings contained in the United States
4 Constitution;

5 (8) engender full respect for, and appreciation
6 of, the United States Constitution;

7 (9) preserve and protect the extraordinary place
8 of the Constitution in the history of the United
9 States; and

10 (10) establish a legal public holiday to celebrate
11 the United States Constitution.

12 **SEC. 4. ESTABLISHMENT OF HOLIDAY.**

13 Section 6103(a) of title 5, United States Code, is
14 amended by inserting after the item relating to Labor Day
15 the following:

16 “Constitution Day, September 17.”.

17 **SEC. 5. EFFECTIVE DATE.**

18 The amendment made by this Act shall take effect
19 on the first January 1 that occurs after the date of enact-
20 ment of this Act.

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