

Date of Hearing: April 14, 2021

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

Lorena Gonzalez, Chair

AB 855 (Ramos) – As Introduced February 17, 2021

Policy Committee: Judiciary

Vote: 10 - 0

Urgency: No

State Mandated Local Program: No

Reimbursable: No

SUMMARY:

This bill exclude Columbus Day from the list of judicial holidays and removes Native American Day from the list of excluded judicial holidays.

FISCAL EFFECT:

No cost to Judicial Council.

COMMENTS:

- 1) **Purpose.** This bill eliminates Columbus Day as a paid judicial holiday and replaces it with Native American Day as a paid judicial holiday. According to the author:

Leading up to the 2020 observance of the Columbus Day holiday by Judicial Council employees, the question arose as to why the judicial branch continues to observe the day as a paid holiday when many other states and government agencies no longer observe it. If AB 855 is approved, then judicial employees will become the first state workers to enjoy a paid state holiday on California Native American Day.

- 2) **Arguments in Support.** According to the Judicial Council of California:

Sponsoring legislation to recognize Native American Day as a judicial holiday furthers the Judicial Council's mission of, embodied in the Strategic Plan, "to remove all barriers to access and fairness by being responsive to the state's cultural, ethnic, socioeconomic, linguistic, physical, gender, and age diversities, and to all people." This bill also supports the Chief Justice's direction to address bias and racism.

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