



102ND GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2021 and 2022

HB4811

Introduced 1/27/2022, by Rep. Tim Butler - Kelly M. Cassidy -
Norine K. Hammond - Frances Ann Hurley

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

5 ILCS 490/9 new

Amends the Commemorative Dates Act. Provides that April 18 of each year is designated as Republic of Ireland Day to be observed throughout the State as a day in recognition of the anniversary of April 18, 1949, the day in which the Republic of Ireland officially declared itself independent from Great Britain, in recognition of the Republic of Ireland and its people, and in recognition of the many Illinoisans of Irish descent who have made a lasting impact upon our State. Provides that each year, within 10 days before Republic of Ireland Day, the Governor shall issue a proclamation announcing the recognition of Republic of Ireland Day, and designate the official events that shall be held in honor of Republic of Ireland Day and the contributions of Illinoisans of Irish descent. Effective immediately.

LRB102 24966 RJF 34221 b

1 AN ACT concerning government.

2 **Be it enacted by the People of the State of Illinois,**
3 **represented in the General Assembly:**

4 Section 1. Findings. The General Assembly finds and
5 declares the following:

6 (1) Irish individuals first came to Illinois in the
7 late 18th Century in search of liberty and new
8 opportunities.

9 (2) From farming to industrial work in cities, the
10 contributions of Irish in Illinois have been enormous.

11 (3) Cook County is the largest Irish county in the
12 United States and the State of Illinois is home to over
13 1,000,000 individuals with Irish ancestry.

14 (4) Due to the large number of Irish-Americans in
15 Illinois, Chicago is home to one of the largest St.
16 Patrick's Day celebrations and celebrations of Irish
17 heritage in the United States.

18 (5) Therefore, given the contributions of
19 Irish-Americans to both the United States and the State of
20 Illinois, the General Assembly declares that April 18 of
21 each year shall be known as Republic of Ireland Day.

22 Section 5. The State Commemorative Dates Act is amended by
23 adding Section 9 as follows:

1 (5 ILCS 490/9 new)

2 Sec. 9. Republic of Ireland Day. April 18 of each year is
3 designated as Republic of Ireland Day to be observed
4 throughout the State as a day in recognition of the
5 anniversary of April 18, 1949, the day in which the Republic of
6 Ireland officially declared itself independent from Great
7 Britain, in recognition of the Republic of Ireland and its
8 people, and in recognition of the many Illinoisans of Irish
9 descent who have made a lasting impact upon our State. Each
10 year, within 10 days before Republic of Ireland Day, the
11 Governor shall issue a proclamation announcing the recognition
12 of Republic of Ireland Day, and designate the official events
13 that shall be held in honor of Republic of Ireland Day and the
14 contributions of Illinoisans of Irish descent.

15 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
16 becoming law.