

HOUSE BILL NO. 650
INTRODUCED BY R. KOOPMAN

A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT CREATING LIBERTY DAY TO RECOGNIZE THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF JAMES MADISON TO OUR COUNTRY AND TO CELEBRATE THE GOD-GIVEN RIGHTS AND CHERISHED LIBERTIES THAT WE ALL ENJOY AS AMERICANS."

WHEREAS, we, as Americans, cherish the rights and liberties preserved by our founding fathers in great documents like the Declaration of Independence and the Constitution of the United States; and

WHEREAS, during the Constitutional Convention of 1787, James Madison was a major contributor to the Virginia plan, which gave rise to federalism and our constitutional form of government; and

WHEREAS, it was James Madison who kept complete records of the Constitutional Convention debates and his wife Molly who, after his death, transferred those records to the United States government; and

WHEREAS, it was James Madison's records and brilliant arguments in support of the new constitution, including his coauthorship of The Federalist Papers with Alexander Hamilton and John Jay, that played an essential role in the ratification of the Constitution of the United States; and

WHEREAS, James Madison served in the United States House of Representatives from 1789 to 1797 and introduced into Congress the Bill of Rights, ratified by the states in 1791; and

WHEREAS, James Madison was Secretary of State from 1801 to 1809 and President of the United States from 1809 to 1817; and

WHEREAS, James Madison is widely considered to be the "father of the constitution".

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Liberty Day.** (1) Except as provided in subsection (2), there is a Liberty Day to be recognized by the state each March 16 to honor the birthday of James Madison and to celebrate the God-given rights and cherished liberties that we all enjoy as Americans.

(2) In cases when March 16 falls on a Saturday or Sunday, Liberty Day must be on the first Monday following March 16.

NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an

integral part of Title 1, chapter 1, part 5, and the provisions of Title 1, chapter 1, part 5, apply to [section 1].

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