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SENATE BILL NO. 413—SENATORS CANNIZZARO, SEGERBLOM,  
RATTI, FORD, CANCELA; ATKINSON, DENIS, FARLEY,  
MANENDO, PARKS, SPEARMAN AND WOODHOUSE

MARCH 20, 2017

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JOINT SPONSORS: ASSEMBLYMEN YEAGER;  
AND BENITEZ-THOMPSON

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Referred to Committee on Government Affairs

SUMMARY—Establishes “Public Lands Day” in the State of Nevada. (BDR 19-772)

FISCAL NOTE: Effect on Local Government: No.  
Effect on the State: Yes.

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

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AN ACT relating to public lands; establishing the last Saturday in September of each year as “Public Lands Day” in the State of Nevada; requiring the Governor to issue annually a proclamation encouraging the observance of Public Lands Day; and providing other matters properly relating thereto.

**Legislative Counsel’s Digest:**

1 Under existing law, various days and weeks of observance are recognized in  
2 this State. (NRS 236.018-236.085) **Section 1** of this bill establishes the last  
3 Saturday in September of each year as “Public Lands Day” in the State of Nevada  
4 and requires the Governor to issue annually a proclamation encouraging the  
5 observance of Public Lands Day.

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1 WHEREAS, In 1994, three federal agencies established the  
2 National Public Lands Day, with 700 volunteers working at three  
3 sites located on public lands and, since then, the activities relating to  
4 National Public Lands Day have expanded to include new places,  
5 projects and persons; and

6 WHEREAS, More than 80 percent of the public lands in this State  
7 are owned by the people of the United States and are managed and



1 controlled by various federal agencies for the benefit of all persons  
2 living in the United States; and

3 WHEREAS, The federal public lands in this State include national  
4 parks, forests, wildlife refuges, monuments, wilderness areas and  
5 public lands managed and controlled by the Bureau of Land  
6 Management, the United States Forest Service, the National Park  
7 Service and other federal agencies; and

8 WHEREAS, All public lands located in this State feature a  
9 diverse range of landscapes, deserted mining towns where riches  
10 were made and lost, lush oases which stand in sharp contrast to  
11 surrounding barren lands, isolated ranches that are sometimes the  
12 size of small countries and trees which are thousands of years old;  
13 and

14 WHEREAS, The public lands in this State reflect many noble  
15 democratic ideals because they are open and accessible to all  
16 persons, regardless of whether those persons are rich or poor; and

17 WHEREAS, The public lands in this State provide many benefits  
18 to the residents of this State and support a wide variety of activities,  
19 including recreational pursuits and the development of natural  
20 resources; and

21 WHEREAS, Efforts to transfer the federal public lands in this  
22 State from the people of the United States into state or private  
23 control are contrary to the democratic values of the United States  
24 and jeopardize activities such as hiking, camping, hunting, fishing  
25 and off-road pursuits; and

26 WHEREAS, The residents of this State support national efforts to  
27 promote the stewardship and celebration of all public lands in this  
28 State: now therefore,

29  
30 THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN  
31 SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:  
32

33 **Section 1.** Chapter 236 of NRS is hereby amended by adding  
34 thereto a new section to read as follows:

35 *1. The last Saturday in September of each year is established*  
36 *as "Public Lands Day" in the State of Nevada.*

37 *2. The Governor shall issue annually a proclamation*  
38 *encouraging the observance of Public Lands Day. The*  
39 *proclamation may, without limitation:*

40 *(a) Call upon the news media, state and local officers, private*  
41 *nonprofit groups and foundations, schools, businesses and other*  
42 *public and private entities to bring to the attention of the residents*  
43 *of this State the importance of the public lands in the State of*  
44 *Nevada;*



1       ***(b) Recognize the economic, scenic, historical and other value***  
2       ***of the public lands in the State of Nevada; and***

3       ***(c) Encourage the residents of the State of Nevada to engage***  
4       ***in volunteer stewardship activities which contribute to the***  
5       ***conservation of the unique public lands which are only found in***  
6       ***the State of Nevada.***

7       **Sec. 2.** This act becomes effective on July 1, 2017.

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