

(Reprinted with amendments adopted on May 22, 2019)

SECOND REPRINT

S.B. 336

SENATE BILL NO. 336—SENATORS D. HARRIS, SPEARMAN, PARKS;
CANNIZZARO, DONDERO LOOP, OHRENSCHALL AND SCHEIBLE

MARCH 18, 2019

JOINT SPONSORS: ASSEMBLYMEN THOMPSON, MONROE-MORENO,
TORRES, ASSEFA, FRIERSON; BILBRAY-AXELROD,
CARRILLO, COHEN, DURAN, ELLISON, FLORES, GORELOW,
HAFEN, HARDY, LEAVITT, MARTINEZ, MCCURDY, MILLER,
MUNK, NEAL, PETERS, SMITH AND WATTS

Referred to Committee on Government Affairs

SUMMARY—Requires the Governor to annually proclaim July 28
as Buffalo Soldiers Day in the State of Nevada.
(BDR 19-791)

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

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

AN ACT relating to days of observance; requiring the Governor
annually to proclaim July 28 to be “Buffalo Soldiers Day”
in Nevada; and providing other matters properly relating
thereto.

Legislative Counsel’s Digest:

1 Existing law sets forth certain days of observance in this State to commemorate
2 certain persons or occasions or to publicize information regarding certain important
3 topics. (NRS 236.018-236.085) This bill requires the Governor to annually
4 proclaim July 28 to be “Buffalo Soldiers Day” in the State of Nevada.

1 WHEREAS, On July 28, 1866, after the end of the Civil War,
2 Congress enacted legislation that allowed African-American men to
3 serve in six segregated units in the United States Army during
4 peacetime; and

5 WHEREAS, These new units, which consisted of former slaves
6 and African-American soldiers that fought in the Civil War, were



1 the 9th and 10th Cavalry, and the 38th, 39th, 40th and 41st Infantry,
2 which were later reorganized as the 24th and 25th Infantry; and

3 WHEREAS, These soldiers were nicknamed Buffalo Soldiers by
4 the Native Americans against whom they fought because of their
5 reputation for toughness and bravery in battle and the buffalo fur
6 coats that they wore in the winter; and

7 WHEREAS, Throughout the era of the Indian Wars, Buffalo
8 Soldiers were posted from Montana in the Northwest to Texas, New
9 Mexico and Arizona in the Southwest, making up approximately 20
10 percent of the United States Cavalry troops; and

11 WHEREAS, Besides their impressive military contributions, the
12 Buffalo Soldiers also had a significant role in the expansion of the
13 West by escorting settlers, cattle herds and railroad crews, exploring
14 and mapping vast areas of the Southwest and stringing hundreds of
15 miles of telegraph lines; and

16 WHEREAS, The Buffalo Soldiers were some of the first park
17 rangers in the national parks of the Sierra Nevada, where they
18 protected the parks from illegal grazing, poaching, timber thieves
19 and forest fires and helped build roads and trails in the parks for the
20 enjoyment of all Americans; and

21 WHEREAS, Buffalo Soldiers also served courageously during
22 World War I and World War II; and

23 WHEREAS, African-Americans have fought with distinction in
24 all of this country's military engagements and 23 Buffalo Soldiers
25 received the Congressional Medal of Honor, which is the highest
26 military distinction awarded in the name of Congress to members of
27 the armed forces for bravery and service; and

28 WHEREAS, It is important to honor the dedication and sacrifices
29 of the Buffalo Soldiers, recognize the contributions that they have
30 made to the State of Nevada and to the United States and preserve
31 their legacy; now, therefore,
32

33 THE PEOPLE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, REPRESENTED IN
34 SENATE AND ASSEMBLY, DO ENACT AS FOLLOWS:
35

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

38 *1. The Governor shall annually proclaim July 28 to be*
39 *"Buffalo Soldiers Day" in the State of Nevada.*

40 *2. The proclamation must call upon the news media,*
41 *educators, business and labor leaders and appropriate*
42 *governmental officers to bring to the attention of Nevada residents*
43 *the important contributions Buffalo Soldiers made to the State of*
44 *Nevada and the United States.*



1 **Sec. 2.** This act becomes effective upon passage and approval.

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* S B 3 3 6 R 2 *