



104TH GENERAL ASSEMBLY

State of Illinois

2025 and 2026

HB5596

Introduced 2/13/2026, by Rep. Wayne A. Rosenthal

SYNOPSIS AS INTRODUCED:

5 ILCS 490/105

Amends the State Commemorative Dates Act. Provides that the Governor shall annually designate by official proclamation the third Friday of September in each year as POW/MIA Recognition Day (rather than the third Friday of September in each year is designated as POW/MIA Recognition Day) to be observed in honor and remembrance of the men and women who, as POWs, have suffered captivity in foreign countries while in active service with the United States armed forces or who, as MIAs, have been recognized as missing in action in a time of war or during a period of hostilities (rather than who were recognized as POWs or MIAs in a time of war or during a period of hostilities). Provides that the Governor shall request, in the Governor's annual designation by official proclamation, that some portion of the third Friday of September be used for solemn contemplation on the plight of members of the United States armed forces who have been held prisoners of war and members of the United States armed forces who have been missing in action and the resolve of families and friends who continue to seek the fullest possible accounting for missing loved ones. Effective immediately.

LRB104 18465 BDA 31907 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 5. The State Commemorative Dates Act is amended by
5 changing Section 105 as follows:

6 (5 ILCS 490/105)

7 Sec. 105. POW/MIA Recognition Day. The Governor shall
8 annually designate by official proclamation the third Friday
9 of September in each year ~~is designated~~ as POW/MIA Recognition
10 Day to be observed throughout the State as a day in honor and
11 remembrance of the men and women of this State who, as POWs,
12 have suffered captivity in foreign countries while in active
13 service with the United States armed forces or who, as MIAs,
14 have been recognized as missing in action ~~were recognized as~~
15 ~~POWs or MIAs while serving with the armed forces of the United~~
16 ~~States~~ in a time of war or during a period of hostilities. The
17 Governor shall request, in the Governor's annual designation
18 by official proclamation, that some portion of the third
19 Friday of September be used for solemn contemplation on the
20 plight of members of the United States armed forces who have
21 been held prisoners of war and members of the United States
22 armed forces who have been missing in action and the resolve of
23 families and friends who continue to seek the fullest possible

1 accounting for missing loved ones.

2 (Source: P.A. 90-752, eff. 8-14-98.)

3 Section 99. Effective date. This Act takes effect upon
4 becoming law.