



**House  
Legislative  
Analysis  
Section**

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House Bill 4399 as passed by the House  
Second Analysis (6-16-87)

**RECEIVED**

Sponsor: Rep. Justine Barns  
Committee: State Affairs

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H.B. 4399 (6-16-87)

***THE APPARENT PROBLEM:***

September 17, 1987 will mark the 200th anniversary of the adoption of the United States Constitution. The federal Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States has proposed that national attention be focused on the events leading to the adoption of the Constitution, the formation of the first United States government, and the ratification of the Bill of Rights. To this end, the Michigan Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution was created by Public Act 71 of 1986. The commission is charged with preparing a program to commemorate the upcoming bicentennial, and coordinate activities associated with the celebration. In order to focus attention on this national observance, some people believe that Michigan should declare September 17 as Constitution Day.

***THE CONTENT OF THE BILL:***

The bill would establish September 17 as "constitution day".

***BACKGROUND INFORMATION:***

A similar version of the bill passed the House last session.

***FISCAL IMPLICATIONS:***

The bill alone would not create a paid day off for state employees, and would therefore have no fiscal implications for the state. However, if the Civil Service Commission were to declare the day a paid holiday for non-unionized workers, and if the bargaining units representing other state workers won a paid holiday the bill could have major implications to the state. (6-16-87)

***ARGUMENTS:***

***For:***

The upcoming bicentennial of the Constitution is a prime opportunity to heighten public awareness of the document's durability and the relevance of our country's founding principles for today. In light of the festive and educational activities planned by the Michigan Commission on the Bicentennial of the United States Constitution, it is fitting to declare a state holiday to commemorate this event of great national significance.

***Against:***

Passage of the bill might stimulate action by state employee bargaining units to negotiate another paid holiday at a tremendous cost to the state.

***POSITIONS:***

The Department of Management and Budget supports the bill.