

Indiana Considers 'Super Bowl Monday' State Holiday

Rep. Mitch Gore speaks at a press conference at the Indiana Statehouse, announcing the details of House Bill 1517.



Indianapolis, Indiana Feb 16, 2026 ([IssueWire.com](https://www.IssueWire.com)) - Indiana could soon join a growing number of states unofficially acknowledging the post-Super Bowl slump, with a new bill proposing to make the Monday after the Super Bowl an official state holiday. House Bill 1517, introduced by Representative Mitch Gore (D-Indianapolis) earlier this week, seeks to establish "American Professional Football Day" as a paid holiday for state employees and encourage private sector employers to follow suit.

The bill argues that the Monday following the Super Bowl consistently sees significant drops in workplace productivity due to widespread celebrations, late nights, and what Gore jokingly refers to as the "Super Bowl Flu." The legislation aims to mitigate these losses by formally recognizing the cultural significance of the event and allowing citizens a day to recover and celebrate.

"For years, Hoosiers have been calling in sick or showing up to work less than their best on the Monday after the Super Bowl," said Rep. Gore in a press conference held this morning at the Statehouse. "This bill acknowledges the reality of modern American life and aims to turn a productivity drain into an opportunity for families and communities to come together and enjoy a uniquely American tradition. We're not just giving people a day off; we're acknowledging a cultural phenomenon."

While proponents tout the potential economic benefits of a well-rested and engaged workforce following the holiday, concerns have been raised regarding the potential cost to the state. The Indiana Fiscal Policy Institute is currently conducting an analysis to determine the financial impact of a paid state holiday. Critics also argue that the bill sets a precedent for recognizing other popular events as holidays,

potentially leading to further reductions in workdays.

"Where do we draw the line?" questioned State Senator Erin Houchin (R-Salem) in a statement released earlier today. "While I understand the sentiment behind this bill, we must carefully consider the long-term economic implications of adding another paid holiday to the state calendar. Are we prepared to consider similar holidays for other sporting events, concerts, or festivals?"

House Bill 1517 is currently under review by the House Government and Regulatory Reform Committee. If passed by both the House and Senate and signed into law by the Governor, the holiday would potentially be implemented after July 1, 2025, making the Monday after Super Bowl LIX the first official "American Professional Football Day" in Indiana.

The bill's future remains uncertain as it navigates the legislative process. However, it has already sparked considerable debate and generated national attention, highlighting the growing trend of recognizing the cultural and economic impact of the Super Bowl beyond the game itself.

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