

Date of Hearing: April 8, 2026

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

Blanca Rubio, Chair

AB 2017 (Haney) – As Introduced February 17, 2026

**SUBJECT:** State holidays: Eid

**SUMMARY:** This bill would add “Eid al-Fitr” and “Eid al-Adha” to the list of state holidays. The bill would exclude “Eid al-Fitr” and “Eid al-Adha” from designation as judicial holidays. The bill would authorize community colleges and public schools to close on “Eid al-Fitr” and “Eid al-Adha,” as specified. Specifically, **this bill:**

- 1) Adds the first day of the month of Shawwal in the Islamic lunar calendar, known as “Eid al-Fitr,” and the 10th day of the month of Dhu al-Hijjah in the Islamic lunar calendar, known as “Eid al-Adha,” to the list of state holidays.
- 2) Excludes Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha from designation as judicial holidays.
- 3) Authorize community colleges and public schools to close on Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha, as specified.
- 4) Add an absence from school for purposes of observing Eid al-Fitr or Eid al-Adha to the list of required excused absences by a pupil. (Education Code § 48205)
- 5) Authorize state employees to elect to use 8 hours of vacation, annual leave, compensating time off, or personal holiday credit corresponding with Eid al-Fitr or Eid al-Adha, as specified.
- 6) Makes technical and clarifying changes.

**EXISTING LAW:**

- 1) Establishes the holidays of the state as: Every Sunday; January 1; Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day (the third Monday in January); Lunar New Year (date corresponding with the second new moon following the winter solstice, or the third new moon following the winter solstice should an intercalary month intervene); Lincoln Day (February 12); the third Monday in February; Farmworkers Day (March 31); Genocide Remembrance Day (April 24); Diwali (the 15th day of the month of Kartik in the Hindu calendar each year); the last Monday in May; Juneteenth (June 19); July 4; the first Monday in September, Admission Day (September 9); Native American Day (the fourth Friday in September); Columbus Day (the second Monday in October); Veterans Day (November 11); December 25; Good Friday (from 12 noon until 3 p.m.); and every day appointed by the President or Governor as a public fast, thanksgiving, or holiday, as provided. (Section 6700, Gov. Code.)
- 2) Entitles state employees to the following holidays: January 1; the third Monday in January; the third Monday in February; March 31; the last Monday in May; July 4; the first Monday in September; November 11; Thanksgiving Day and day after; December 25; the day chosen by an employee as a personal holiday; and every day appointed by the Governor of this state for a public fast, thanksgiving, or holiday. (Section 19853(a), Gov. Code.)

- 3) Specifies that the above holidays, except for “Farmworkers Day” and “Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day,” shall not apply to a city, county, or district unless made applicable by charter, or by ordinance or resolution of the governing body.
- 4) Allows a state employee to elect to receive eight hours of holiday credit for the Lunar New Year, Genocide Remembrance Day, Juneteenth, or Native American Day in lieu of receiving eight hours of personal holiday credit. (Section 19853 (e), Gov. Code.)
- 5) Authorizes an employee in State Bargaining Unit 5, to elect to use eight hours of vacation, annual leave, or compensating time off consistent with departmental operational needs and collective bargaining agreements for the fourth Friday in September, known as “Native American Day.”
- 6) Adopts state holidays as judicial holidays, with certain exceptions, including Admission Day and Columbus Day.
- 7) Authorizes a state employee to elect to receive holiday credit to observe their religion, culture, or heritage, among other provisions, including those relating to collective bargaining. (Section 19853.2, Gov. Code.)
- 8) Requires a pupil to be excused from school for specified types of absences, including, among others, an absence for justifiable personal reasons including, but not limited to, observance of a holiday or ceremony of the pupil’s religion, if the pupil’s absence is requested in writing by the parent or guardian and approved by the principal or a designated representative, as specified. (Education Code § 48205)

**FISCAL EFFECT:** This bill is keyed fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

**COMMENTS:**

Purpose of the bill. According to the author, “AB 2017 recognizes Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha as official California state holidays. California is home to one of the nation’s largest and most diverse Muslim communities, yet our state holiday calendar has not kept pace with that reality. Muslim students and families are often forced to choose between fully observing their holiest days and attending school or work obligations. By adding Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha to California’s list of recognized state holidays, consistent with the state’s existing recognition of observances such as Lunar New Year and Diwali, AB 2017 promotes inclusion, respect, and a stronger sense of belonging for Muslim Californians while relying on existing law governing school calendars, employee leave, and institutional observance.”

**Background.**

There are two main holidays in Islam that are celebrated by Muslims worldwide: Eid al-Fitr and Eid al Adha. Eid al-Fitr is celebrated starting on the first day of Shawwal following the month of Ramadan. Eid al-Adha is the second of two major holidays observed by Muslims.

The timing of both holidays is set by the lunar Islamic calendar, which is based upon the cycle of the moon, and so is different from the more common, European, solar-based Gregorian calendar. Every year, the Gregorian dates of the Islamic holidays change.

Eid Al-Fitr (meaning “Festival of Breaking the Fast) marks the end of Ramadan, the month when Muslims fast from dawn to sunset and commemorate the first revelation of the Quran to Prophet Muhammad. Ramadan is a time of religious observance, prayer, Quran recitation, and reflection, including the special night known as Laylatul Qadr. Because it follows the lunar (Hijri) calendar, Eid al-Fitr occurs about 11 days earlier each year. Muslims gather in mosques or open spaces for a special congregational prayer shortly after sunrise.

Eid Al-Adha, also known as the 'Festival of Sacrifice', commemorates the story of Prophet Ibrahim willingness to sacrifice his son as an act of obedience to Allah. This festival emphasizes themes of faith, sacrifice, and generosity. Celebrated on the tenth month of Dhu al-Hijja, Eid al-Adha coincides with the last day of Hajj. Eid-al Adha is celebrated for 3 days.

While both Eids are occasions for celebration and prayer, they hold distinct differences. Eid Al-Fitr marks the end of Ramadan and is characterized by feasting, gift-giving, and acts of charity. On the other hand, Eid Al-Adha coincides with the culmination of the Hajj pilgrimage and focuses on sacrifice, reflection, and communal prayers.<sup>1</sup>

Unpaid/Paid holidays. California law does not require private employers to provide paid holidays, to close their business on any holiday, or to give employees the day off for any particular holiday. When an employer chooses to close its business on a holiday and provide paid time off, that practice exists because of an employer-adopted policy or practice, the terms of a collective bargaining agreement, or the terms of an individual employment agreement. There is no legal requirement that an employer offer paid holidays or close its operations on those days.

At the local level, cities have the liberty to specify by charter, ordinance or resolution what paid holidays the city will provide to its city employees. Similarly, most state workers are bound by the memorandum of understanding that they have negotiated with the Governor. For all other state employees, they are entitled to the holidays prescribed in the Existing Law section of this analysis.

This bill adds “Eid al-Fitr” and “Eid al-Adha” to the list of state holidays.

In support. Several supporters of this bill offer information and statements similar to those of the author, including the background information provided to the committee by the author.

The Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans writes, “As one of the most diverse populations in the country, Muslim Californians’ heritage spans South Asian, Arab, African, African American, and Asian and Pacific Islander communities. For most Muslims in the U.S., participating in Eid fully is difficult due to its lack of recognition as an official holiday in schools and workplaces. While the Civil Rights Act affirms that employers must provide “reasonable accommodations” we have seen that many don’t request the holiday due to fear of retaliation. Particularly with the current climate of increased Islamophobia and hate incidents against Muslims, there is fear in expressing their freedom of religion. We all deserve to celebrate our holidays without having to choose between faith or obligation.”

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.twinkl.com/blog/what-is-the-difference-between-eid-al-fitr-and-eid-al-adha-ramadan-early-years>

Dual referral. This bill has been double referred to the Assembly Committee on Public Employment and Retirement.

Related legislation. AB 1841 (Ramos) of 2026. This bill would entitle all state employees to a holiday on the fourth Friday in September, known as “Native American Day,” in lieu of that day as an elective holiday under existing law, upon determination by the California Department of Human Resources that sufficient funds exist to provide the holiday for all state employees. The bill authorizes any state bargaining unit to negotiate to receive this day as a paid holiday as part of their memorandum of understanding. (Assembly Committee on Appropriations)

AB 2156 (Rivas and Limón), Chapter 7, Statutes of 2026. Designated March 31 as Farmworkers Day and required the Governor to annually proclaim March 31 as Farmworkers Day.

AB 2294 (Ta) of 2026. This bill would add April 15, to be known as “Sylvia Mendez Day” as a state holiday and includes uncodified legislative findings and declarations for these purposes. (Assembly Committee on Governmental Organization)

AB 2455 (Haney) of 2026. This bill would require the Governor to annually proclaim May 17 as Bruce Lee Day, would designate and set apart that date each year as having special significance, and would encourage all public schools and educational institutions to observe that date by conducting exercises remembering the life of Bruce Lee and recognizing his accomplishments and the contributions he made to the state. (Assembly Committee on Governmental Organization)

Prior legislation. AB 268 (Kalra), Chapter 358, Statutes of 2025. Added Diwali to the list of state holidays, authorizes public schools and community colleges to close on Diwali, and authorizes state employees to elect to take specified leave in recognition of Diwali.

AB 989 (Ramos) of 2025. This bill proposed to remove the “fourth Friday in September, known as Native American Day” as an elective holiday for state employees and, instead, make it a paid state holiday for those employees. (Assembly Appropriations Committee’s – Held on Suspense File)

AB 2156 (Rivas and Limón), Chapter xxx, Statutes of 2026. Designated March 31 as Farmworkers Day and required the Governor to annually proclaim March 31 as Farmworkers Day.

SB 461 (Wahab), Chapter 398, Statutes of 2023. Authorized a state employee to choose to receive eight hours of holiday credit specifically for observance of a holiday or ceremony of the state employee’s religion, culture, or heritage in lieu of receiving eight hours of personal holiday credit.

AB 1655 (Jones-Sawyer), Chapter 753, Statutes of 2022. Added June 19, known as "Juneteenth," to the list of state holidays, requires public schools, as specified, to close on June 19, and authorizes specified state employees to elect to take time off with pay in recognition of Juneteenth, as specified.

AB1801 (Nazarian), Chapter 761, Statutes of 2022. Added April 24, known as "Genocide Remembrance Day," to the list of state holidays. The bill would authorize community colleges

and public schools to close on April 24, known as "Genocide Remembrance Day," as specified. The bill would authorize state employees to elect to take time off with pay in recognition of "Genocide Remembrance Day," as specified.

AB 1872 (Low) of 2022. This bill would have made the day of a statewide general election in even-numbered years a state holiday, and eliminates Washington Day (sometimes referred to as Presidents' Day) as a holiday in those years. (Held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee's Suspense File)

AB 2596 (Low), Chapter 792, Statutes of 2022. Recognized Lunar New Year as a state holiday and authorizes eligible state employees to elect to receive eight hours of holiday credit for that date in lieu of receiving eight hours of personal credit, as specified.

AB 53 (Low) of 2021. Makes the day of statewide general elections in even-numbered years a state holiday, and eliminates Washington Day as a holiday in those years. (Held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee's Suspense File)

AB 855 (Ramos), Chapter 283, Statutes of 2021. Deleted the statutory exclusion of "the fourth Friday in September, known as "Native American Day" from the list of state holidays not recognized by the courts.

AB 177 (Low) of 2019-2020. Would have made the first Tuesday after the first Monday in November of each even-numbered year a state holiday. (Held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee's Suspense File)

SB 892 (Pan), Chapter 199, Statutes of 2018. Required the Governor to annually proclaim the "Lunar New Year," as specified.

AB 2165 (Low) of 2018 and AB 674 (Low) of 2017 were similar to AB 177 (listed above). (Held on the Assembly Appropriations Committee's Suspense File)

AB 1023 (Brough) of 2017. Proposed to designate February 6 as Ronald Reagan Day, a state holiday that would permit any state employee, as defined, to elect to receive this day as a holiday in lieu of other holidays, among other provisions. (Held in the Assembly Committee on Public Employees, Retirement, and Social Security)

AB 1973 (R. Hernández), Chapter 537, Statutes of 2014. Established the Fourth Friday in September as a state holiday to be known as "Native American Day."

SB 944 (Runner), Chapter 114, Statutes of 2010. Designates February 6 each year as "Ronald Reagan Day;" encourages public schools and educational institutions to engage in exercises commemorating the life of Ronald Reagan, and requires the Governor to annually proclaim February 6 as "Ronald Reagan Day."

SB 984 (Polanco), Chapter 213, Statutes of 2000. Established a paid holiday for state employees each March 31, which would be designated as "Cesar Chavez Day."

AB 1953 (Baca), Chapter 637, Statutes of 1998. Designated the fourth Friday in September as "Native American Day" and makes that day a state holiday.

**REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:**

**Support**

American Muslim Voice Foundation  
Arab American Caucus CA Dem.  
CAIR Action  
CAIR California  
California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs  
Center for Arab Narratives  
Chinatown Community Development Center  
Islamic Center of Santa Cruz  
Mindful Parenting Association (DBA Muslim Parents Association)  
Monterey Bay Economic Partnership  
Muslim American Society-social Services Foundation  
Muslim Community of Folsom  
Muslim Democrats and Friends  
Muslim Impact Council  
Muslim Law Students Association at UC Berkeley  
Muslim Leadership Council of San Diego  
Muslim Mosque Association  
Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans  
Sacramento Area League of Associated Muslims  
Sacramento Metro Muslim Chamber of Commerce  
The Islamic Society of Simi Valley

**Support If Amended**

Hindu American Foundation, Inc.

**Opposition**

None on file

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