

ASSEMBLY THIRD READING

AB 2017 (Haney)

As Amended May 18, 2026

Majority vote

SUMMARY

This bill adds Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha to the list of state holidays, and authorizes public schools to close and state employees to take a certain type of leave in recognition of those holidays.

Major Provisions

- 1) Adds the first day of the month of Shawwal in the Islamic lunar calendar, known as "Eid al-Fitr," and the tenth day of the month of Dhu al-Hijjah in the Islamic lunar calendar, known as "Eid al-Adha," to the list of state holidays, but provides that neither holiday is a judicial holiday.
- 2) Authorizes K-12 public schools and community colleges to close on Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha, as specified.
- 3) Allows the State Board of Education to adopt a model curriculum guide related to Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha for public schools.
- 4) Allows a state employee to elect to receive eight hours of holiday credit for Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha in lieu of receiving eight hours of personal holiday credit and allows the employee to make the election for the dates that their religious group designates for those holidays.

COMMENTS*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.¹

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 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.

According to the Author

According to the author, "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."

Arguments in Support

This bill is sponsored by the California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs, Muslim Impact Council, and CAIR California, with the former arguing, "All Californians deserve to celebrate in their culture without penalty and without needing to choose between either faith or obligation." This bill is also supported by a large coalition of community groups.

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

Arguments in Opposition

This bill is opposed by Real Impact, which argues, "Adjusting school calendars, staffing schedules, and district operations creates additional complexity and cost, which ultimately impacts taxpayers and public resources."

FISCAL COMMENTS

According to the Assembly Committee on Appropriations, "Costs pressures of an unknown, but potentially significant amount, in excess of \$150,000, across school districts and community college districts by entitling classified employees to a paid holiday on Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha, subject to a memorandum of understanding (Proposition 98 General Fund (GF)). Additionally districts that close on Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha would incur costs to update holiday policies and calendar an additional corresponding instructional day. The California Community Colleges expects workload costs to be in the low thousands of dollars per district. There are over 900 school districts and 73 community college districts in California.

Additionally, according to school district officials, when holidays fall on Tuesdays or Thursdays, there is a noticeable reduction in attendance on Mondays (for the Tuesday holiday) and Fridays (for the Thursday holiday) due to parents taking four-day weekends. Since K-12 public schools are funded by student attendance, if Eid falls on a Tuesday or Thursday, this bill could result in reduced school funding. Cost pressures of an unknown amount to the State Board of Education to adopt a model curriculum for Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha. Likely absorbable costs to the California Department of Human Resources (CalHR) to update holiday policies, consistent with departmental operational needs and collective bargaining agreements."

VOTES**ASM GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION: 19-0-3**

YES: Blanca Rubio, Davies, Alvarez, Berman, Bryan, Carrillo, Dixon, Fong, Gabriel, Gipson, McKinnor, Nguyen, Pacheco, Ramos, Michelle Rodriguez, Solache, Ta, Valencia, Wallis

ABS, ABST OR NV: Gallagher, Macedo, Soria

ASM PUBLIC EMPLOYMENT AND RETIREMENT: 7-0-0

YES: McKinnor, Lackey, Alanis, Boerner, Garcia, Nguyen, Michelle Rodriguez

ASM APPROPRIATIONS: 12-1-2

YES: Wicks, Hoover, Aguiar-Curry, Calderon, Caloza, Fong, Mark González, Krell, Pacheco, Pellerin, Sharp-Collins, Solache

NO: Dixon

ABS, ABST OR NV: Ta, Tangipa

UPDATED

VERSION: May 18, 2026

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FN: 0003008