
SENATE COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

Senator Susan Rubio

Chair

2025 - 2026 Regular

Bill No: AB 2017 **Hearing Date:** 6/23/2026
Author: Haney
Version: 6/16/2026 et al.
Urgency: No **Fiscal:** Yes
Consultant: Brian Duke

SUBJECT: State holidays: Eid

DIGEST: This bill adds Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha to the list of state holidays, as specified.

ANALYSIS:

Existing law:

- 1) Authorizes any state employee to elect to receive eight hours of holiday credit for the date known as “Lunar New Year,” the date known as “Genocide Remembrance Day,” the date known as “Diwali,” the date known as “Juneteenth,” or the date known as “Native American Day,” in lieu of receiving eight hours of personal holiday credit, as specified.
- 2) Designates holidays on which community colleges and public schools are authorized to close pursuant to a memorandum of understanding (MOU) between the governing board and represented employees, including “Native American Day” on the fourth Friday in September.
- 3) Entitles state employees, with specified exceptions, to be given time off with pay for specified holidays.
- 4) Authorizes state employees to elect to use eight hours of vacation, annual leave, compensating time off, or personal holiday credit corresponding with specified dates.
- 5) Adopts state holidays as judicial holidays, with certain exceptions including Admission Day and Columbus Day.

This bill:

- 1) Designates 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,” as state holidays, and excludes those dates from designation as judicial holiday.
- 2) Authorizes community colleges and public schools to close on “Eid al-Fitr” and “Eid al-Adha,” and authorizes public educational institutions to conduct exercises, funded through existing resources, acknowledging and celebrating the meaning and importance of those dates, as specified.
- 3) Permits a state employee to elect to receive the holiday credit for the holidays of “Eid al-Fitr” or “Eid al-Adha,” as specified, and permits a state employee to, instead, elect to use eight hours of leave for specified holidays on the dates that their cultural or religious group designates for those holidays.

Background

Author Statement. According to the author’s office, “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.”

Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha. Islam recognizes two principal religious holidays that are celebrated by Muslims around the world: Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha. The dates of both holidays are determined by the Islamic lunar calendar, which is based on the cycles of the moon rather than the solar-based Gregorian calendar. As a result, the Gregorian dates of these observances change each year, occurring approximately 11 days earlier annually.

Eid al-Fitr, meaning the “Festival of Breaking the Fast,” marks the conclusion of Ramadan, the month during which Muslims fast from dawn to sunset and commemorate the first revelation of the Quran to the Prophet Muhammad. Ramadan is a period of religious observance, prayer, Quran recitation, self-

reflection, and spiritual devotion, including the observance of Laylat al-Qadr, one of the holiest nights in Islam. Eid al-Fitr begins on the first day of Shawwal, the month following Ramadan, and is traditionally marked by special congregational prayers held shortly after sunrise, as well as gatherings with family and community members.

Eid al-Adha, known as the “Festival of Sacrifice,” commemorates the Prophet Ibrahim’s willingness to sacrifice his son in obedience of Allah. The holiday emphasizes the values of faith, sacrifice, generosity, and service to others. Observed beginning on the tenth day of Dhu al-Hijjah, the final month of the Islamic calendar, Eid al-Adha coincides with the culmination of the annual Hajj pilgrimage and is traditionally celebrated over a three-day period.

While both Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha are significant religious celebrations marked by prayer and community gatherings, they commemorate different events and traditions. Eid al-Fitr celebrates the completion of Ramadan and is commonly associated with feasting, charitable giving, and the exchange of gifts. In contrast, Eid al-Adha coincides with the conclusion of Hajj and focuses on themes of sacrifice, reflection, generosity, and communal worship. Together, these observances are among the most important holidays in Islam and serve as occasions for spiritual renewal, family gatherings, and community engagement.

Unpaid/Paid Holidays. California law does not require a private employer to provide its employees with paid holidays, that it closes its business on any holiday, or that employees be given the day off for any particular holiday. If an employer closes its business on holidays and gives its employees time off from work with pay, that occurred pursuant to a policy or practice adopted by the employer, pursuant to the terms of a collective bargaining agreement, or pursuant to the terms of an employment agreement between the employer and employee, as there is nothing in law that requires such a practice.

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 employees are bound by the memorandum of understanding that they have negotiated with the Governor.

This bill adds Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha to the list of state holidays and excludes each of those days from designation as judicial holidays. This bill also authorizes community colleges and public schools to close on Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha and authorizes public educational institutions to incorporate exercises celebrating the meaning and importance of those dates. This bill also authorizes state employees to take a certain type of personal leave on those dates.

Prior/Related Legislation

AB 1841 (Ramos, 2026) entitles state employees to a holiday on the fourth Friday in September, known as “Native American Day,” as specified. (Pending in the Senate Governmental Organization Committee)

AB 2294 (Ta, 2026) designates Sylvia Mendez Day as a state holiday, as specified. (Pending on the Senate Floor)

AB 2455 (Haney, 2026) requires the Governor to annually proclaim May 17 as Bruce Lee Day, and designates and sets apart that date each year as having special significance, as specified. (Pending in Engrossing and Enrolling)

AB 268 (Kalra, Chapter, Statutes of 2025) added Diwali to the list of state holidays, and authorized public schools and community colleges to close on that date, as specified.

FISCAL EFFECT: Appropriation: No Fiscal Com.: Yes Local: No

SUPPORT:

California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs (Co-source)

Council on American Islamic Relations, California (Co-source)

Muslim Impact Council (Co-source)

Afghan-American Foundation

Amal Collective

American Muslim Voice Foundation

Arab American Caucus CA Dem.

Bay Area Muslim Council

Board of Supervisors for the City and County of San Francisco

CAIR Action

California Federation of Teachers, Aft, Afl-cio

Center for Arab Narratives

Chinatown Community Development Center

City of Oakland Mayor Barbara Lee

Intercultural Networks Group

Interfaith Center At the Presidio

Islamic Center of Santa Cruz

Islamic Center of Temecula Valley

Islamic Circle of North America - Sacramento Chapter

Islamic Student Studies Association At UC Santa Cruz

Latino & Muslim Unity
Los Angeles County Office of Education
Mindful Parenting 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
Muslim Public Affairs Council
Pakistani Community Members of Sacramento
Partnership for the Advancement of New Americans
Sacramento Area League of Associated Muslims
Sacramento Metro Muslim Chamber of Commerce
San Francisco Board of Supervisors
San Francisco Islamic School
Shia Association of Bay Area
South Asian Network
South Valley Islamic Center
The Islamic Society of Simi Valley
Vivalon

OPPOSITION:

California Family Council
Real Impact

ARGUMENTS IN SUPPORT: In support of the bill, the Council on American-Islamic Relations, California (CAIR-CA) writes, in part, “Islam is the world’s second-largest religion, with over 1.9–2 billion followers worldwide. The United States is home to approximately 4.5 million Muslims, and California has one of the largest Muslim populations in the country, with over 1 million estimated Muslim residents. Despite California’s long-standing commitment to diversity and inclusion, the two most important holidays in the Islamic faith are not currently recognized in California statute.

“Eid al-Fitr marks the end of Ramadan, a month of fasting, reflection, prayer, and charitable giving observed by Muslims around the world. Eid al-Adha occurs during the final month of the Islamic lunar calendar and coincides with the

completion of the Hajj pilgrimage. Both holidays are deeply significant days of prayer, family gatherings, community celebration, and charitable giving.

“Because Eid follows the Islamic lunar calendar, the dates shift approximately 10 to 11 days earlier each year on the Gregorian calendar. As a result, Muslim students and employees frequently face difficult choices between fulfilling school or workplace obligations and participating in essential religious observances.

“Muslim students often face a no-win situation: attend school and miss communal prayers and religious practices or observe their faith and risk falling behind academically. Even when absences are excused, students can miss instruction and feel excluded from their peers. Employees similarly face challenges when workplaces do not formally recognize these holidays.”

ARGUMENTS IN OPPOSITION: In opposition to the bill, Real Impact writes, in part, “AB 2017 seeks to give official recognition to California’s Muslim holidays, Eid al Fitr and Eid al Adha. The bill would require public schools to excuse student absences for these holidays, allow schools and community colleges to close on these days if local governing boards approve. It would also permit schools to offer educational activities about the significance of the holidays. Additionally, state employees would be allowed to use up to eight hours of leave annually to observe Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha.

“At a time when many California schools are facing challenges in academic performance and accountability, the primary responsibility of government should be to strengthen educational outcomes and uphold high academic standards. This includes evaluating whether additional non-instructional days are consistent with improving student achievement and meeting testing and learning benchmarks.

“There is also a broader concern regarding precedent. When additional holidays are added, it raises ongoing questions about equity and consistency across different cultural and religious observances. While historical and cultural traditions are part of American civic life, public institutions must carefully balance recognition of diversity with the constitutional principle of governmental neutrality in matters of religion.”

DUAL REFERRAL: Senate Governmental Organization Committee and Senate Education Committee