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# SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Sasha Renée Pérez, Chair

2025 - 2026 Regular

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<b>Bill No:</b>	AB 2017	<b>Hearing Date:</b>	July 1, 2026
<b>Author:</b>	Haney		
<b>Version:</b>	June 16, 2026		
<b>Urgency:</b>	No	<b>Fiscal:</b>	Yes
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**Subject:** State holidays: Eid.

## SUMMARY

This bill (1) authorizes K-12 public schools and community colleges to close on the first day of the month of Shawwal in the Islamic lunar calendar, known as “Eid al-Fitr,” and on the 10th day of the month of Dhu al-Hijjah in the Islamic lunar calendar, known as “Eid al-Adha”; (2) establishes Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha as state holidays; and (3) authorizes any state employee to elect to receive eight hours of holiday credit for each of Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha, in lieu of receiving eight hours of personal holiday credit.

## BACKGROUND

Existing law:

*K-12 public schools and California Community Colleges (CCCs)*

- 1) Requires public schools and CCCs to close on a number of holidays: January 1; Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; Lincoln Day; Washington Day; Memorial Day; July 4; Labor Day; Veterans Day; Thanksgiving Day; December 25; and any day appointed by the President as a public fast, thanksgiving, or holiday, unless it is a special or limited holiday. (Education Code (EC) § 37220 and 79020)
- 2) Requires public schools close on all days designated by the Governor for a public fast, Thanksgiving, or holiday, all special or limited holidays on which the Governor provides that the schools close, and any other day designated as a holiday by the governing board of a local school district. (EC § 37220)
- 3) Requires CCCs close on any day appointed by the Governor for a public fast, thanksgiving, or holiday if the Governor requires that the CCCs are closed on the day, or if the Governor does not provide whether the CCCs are required to close. (EC § 79020)
- 4) Authorizes public schools and CCCs to be closed, and the classified service of public schools and CCCs to be entitled to a paid holiday, on the following holidays, if the governing board agrees to close schools for that purpose pursuant to a memorandum of understanding (MOU), including:
  - a) April 24, known as “Genocide Remembrance Day.”

- b) The fourth Friday in September, known as “Native American Day.”
  - c) The 15th day of the month of Kartik in the Hindu lunar calendar, known as “Diwali.” (EC §§ 37220.7, 45203, 79020, and 88203)
- 5) Requires school districts to offer a minimum of 180 days of instruction per school year, as a condition of apportionment. (EC § 46208)

*State holidays*

- 6) Provides that holidays in this state are: every Sunday; January 1; Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; Lincoln Day; Washington Day; Farmworkers Day; April 24, known as “Genocide Remembrance Day”; the 15th day of the month of Kartik in the Hindu lunar calendar of each year, known as “Diwali”; Memorial Day; June 19, known as “Juneteenth”; July 4; Labor Day; September 9, known as “Admission Day”; the fourth Friday in September, known as “Native American Day”; Columbus Day; Veterans Day; December 25; Good Friday from 12 p.m. until 3 p.m.; every day appointed by the President or Governor for a public fast, thanksgiving, or holiday. (Government Code (GOV) § 6700)
- 7) Requires that all state employees be entitled to the following holidays: January 1; Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; President’s Day; Farmworkers Day; Memorial Day; July 4; Labor Day; Veterans Day; Thanksgiving Day; the day after Thanksgiving; December 25; a personal holiday chosen by an employee after 6 months of work; and every day appointed by the Governor of this state for a public fast, thanksgiving, or holiday. (GOV § 19853)
- 8) Authorizes any state employee to elect to receive eight hours of holiday credit for the date corresponding with the new moon following the winter solstice, or the third new moon following the winter solstice should an intercalary month intervene, known as “Lunar New Year,” April 24, known as “Genocide Remembrance Day,” June 19, known as “Juneteenth,” or the fourth Friday in September, known as “Native American Day,” in lieu of receiving eight hours of personal holiday credit. (GOV § 19853)

**ANALYSIS**

This bill:

*K-12 public schools*

- 1) Authorizes public schools to close on 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,” if the governing board agrees to close schools for these purposes pursuant to an MOU.
- 2) Authorizes public schools and educational institutions throughout the state to include exercises, funded through existing resources, acknowledging and celebrating the meaning and importance of Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha.

- 3) Authorizes the State Board of Education (SBE) to adopt a model curriculum guide to be available for use by public schools for exercises related to Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha.
- 4) Authorizes classified public K-12 school employees to a paid holiday on each of 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,” if the governing board agrees to close schools for these purposes pursuant to an MOU.

#### CCCs

- 5) Authorizes a CCC to close on 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,” if the governing board, agrees to close the CCC for these purposes pursuant to an MOU.
- 6) Authorizes classified CCC employees to a paid holiday on each of 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,” if the governing board of the community college district agrees to the paid holidays pursuant to a MOU.

#### State holidays

- 7) Establishes 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.
- 8) Authorizes any state employee to elect to receive eight hours of holiday credit for each of the dates corresponding with 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,” in lieu of receiving eight hours of personal holiday credit.

#### Other provisions

- 9) Excludes Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha from being judicial holidays.

#### STAFF COMMENTS

- 1) **Need for 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.”

- 2) ***Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha.*** Eid means “festival” or “feast” in Arabic, and there are two major eids each year 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 used in most parts of the world, including the United States. The Islamic lunar calendar consists of 354 or 355 days per year, and as a result, the Gregorian dates of these observances change each year, occurring approximately 11 days earlier in each successive year.

Eid al-Fitr, meaning the “Festival of Breaking the Fast,” is a 3-day festival that 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 the 10th month of the Islamic calendar, 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,” is a 4-day festival that 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 and 12th 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.

Though 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.

- 3) ***This bill authorizes but does not require a school or CCC holiday.*** K-12 public schools and CCCs are required to provide a minimum number of days of instruction per year. CCCs specifically are required to continue in session unless closed on specified holidays. This bill grants K-12 public schools and CCCs the authority to close on the first day of the month of Shawwal in the Islamic lunar calendar for Eid al-Fitr, as well as the 10th day of the month of Dhu al-Hijjah in the Islamic lunar calendar for Eid al-Adha. Similarly, this bill establishes these specified days as state holidays and authorizes state employees to elect to receive eight hours of holiday credit on that day in lieu of receiving eight hours of personal holiday credit. *Committee staff notes that an additional state holiday does not*

*equate to an additional day off from school or a paid day off, and public employees already earn personal holidays that they may use to take off for any day with pay.*

- 4) **Resources for schools.** This bill authorizes schools to include exercises, funded through existing resources, acknowledging and celebrating the meaning and importance of Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha. This bill further authorizes SBE to adopt a model curriculum guide to be available for use by public schools for exercises related to Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha.

Though the California Constitution prohibits public schools from teaching any sectarian or denominational doctrine, it does not prohibit instruction about religion. Section 51511 of the Education Code states, “Nothing in this code shall be construed to prevent, or exclude from the public schools, references to religion or references to or the use of religious literature, dance, music, theatre, and visual arts or other things having a religious significance when such references or uses do not constitute instruction in religious principles or aid to any religious sect, church, creed, or sectarian purpose and when such references or uses are incidental to or illustrative of matters properly included in the course of study.”

This bill authorizes K-12 public schools to include exercises, funded through existing resources, acknowledging and celebrating the meaning and importance of Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha, but does not authorize religious indoctrination.

- 5) **Paid vs. unpaid holidays.** As noted in the Senate Governmental Organization Committee’s analysis, 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 workers are bound by the MOU that they have negotiated with the Governor.

For all other state employees, they are generally entitled to the following paid holidays: January 1; Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; President’s Day; Farmworkers Day; Memorial Day; July 4; Labor Day; Veterans Day; Thanksgiving Day; the day after Thanksgiving; December 25; a personal holiday chosen by an employee after 6 months of work; and every day appointed by the Governor of this state for a public fast, thanksgiving, or holiday.

- 6) **Related and Prior Legislation.**

AB 268 (Kalra, Chapter 358, Statutes of 2025) a) authorizes K-12 public schools and community colleges to close on the 15th day of the month of Kartik in the Hindu lunar calendar of each year, known as “Diwali”; b) establishes Diwali as a

state holiday; and, c) authorizes any state employee to elect to receive eight hours of holiday credit for Diwali, in lieu of receiving eight hours of personal holiday credit.

**SUPPORT**

California Commission on Asian and Pacific Islander American Affairs (co-sponsor)  
Muslim Impact Council (co-sponsor)  
Amal Collective  
Chinatown Community Development Center  
City of Oakland Mayor Barbara Lee  
Dana Investment Corp  
Intercultural Networks Group  
Interfaith Center at the Presidio  
Latino & Muslim Unity  
Los Angeles County Office of Education  
Manara West  
Muslim American Society-Social Services Foundation  
Muslim Leadership Council of San Diego  
Muslim Parents Association  
Muslim Public Affairs Council  
San Francisco Board of Supervisors  
South Asian Network  
Vivalon  
Two Individuals

**OPPOSITION**

California Family Council  
Real Impact

**-- END --**