

SENATE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE
Senator Thomas Umberg, Chair
2025-2026 Regular Session

AB 395 (Gabriel)
Version: June 26, 2025
Hearing Date: June 30, 2026
Fiscal: Yes
Urgency: No
AWM

SUBJECT

Holidays

DIGEST

This bill requires specified state and local entities, including the California Community Colleges (CCC) and the California State University (CSU), and requests the University of California (UC), to make reasonable efforts to avoid calendaring events and meetings on days observed as religious, cultural, or ancestral holidays.

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

California is remarkably culturally and religiously diverse. Our existing state holidays reflect this diversity, recognizing dates such as Lunar New Year, Cesar Chavez Day, Genocide Remembrance Day, Juneteenth, Native American Day, Veterans Day, and Good Friday from noon to 3:00 p.m. The existing list of state holidays does not, of course, represent a complete list of holidays which Californians celebrate. State and local agencies, schools, and California's public colleges and universities have broad inherent discretion to plan meeting dates and events around dates which they have reason to know will create conflicts for members of their community.

This bill codifies the extent to which state and local agencies, schools, and public colleges and universities must account for days of religious, cultural, or ancestral significance when calendaring official events. Public and charter elementary and secondary schools, and legislative bodies of local agencies, are "encouraged to consider making efforts" to avoid setting events and meetings on dates which the entity knows, or has reason to know, members of the public will be able to participate or be present due to ritual observance of a religious, cultural, or ancestral holiday. The CSU and the CCCs, and state agencies, are required to "make every reasonable effort" to avoid setting institutional events, meetings, or other functions on dates which the entity knows, or has reason to know, members of the public will be unable to participate or be present due to ritual observance of a religious, cultural, or ancestral holiday. The

author has agreed to amend the bill to modify the standard of effort required for state agencies and public colleges and universities, and to specify that the only available remedy for a violation is injunctive relief, as specified.

This bill is sponsored by Jewish California and is supported by a number of organizations, including labor organizations, school districts, and religious groups. The Committee has not received timely opposition to this bill. The Senate Education Committee passed this bill with a vote of 7-0.

PROPOSED CHANGES TO THE LAW

Existing constitutional law:

- 1) Provides that Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof. (U.S. Const., 1st amend.; *Cantwell v. Connecticut* (1940) 310 U.S. 296 (free exercise clause applies to states); *Everson v. Bd. of Education* (1947) 330 U.S. 1 (establishment clause applies to the states).)
- 2) Provides that free exercise and enjoyment of religion without discrimination or preference are guaranteed; that this liberty of conscience does not excuse acts that are licentious or inconsistent with the peace or safety of the state; and that the Legislature shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion. (Cal. Const., art. I, § 4.)

Existing state law:

- 1) Provides that no person shall be subjected to discrimination on the basis of disability, gender, gender identity, gender expression, nationality, race or ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, or other specified bases, including immigration status, in any program or activity conducted by an educational institution that receives, or benefits from, state financial assistance, or enrolls pupils who receive state financial aid. (Ed. Code, §§ 200, 220.)
- 2) Provides that the school year for an elementary or secondary school in this state begins on the first day of July and ends on the last day of June. (Ed. Code, § 37200.)
- 3) Provides that, except as otherwise specified, the public schools shall close on the following holidays:
 - a) January 1.
 - b) The third Monday in January or the Monday or Friday in which January 15 occurs, known as "Martin Luther King, Jr. Day."
 - c) The Monday or Friday of the week in which February 12 occurs, known as "Lincoln Day."
 - d) The third Monday in February, known as "Washington Day."

- e) The last Monday in May, known as "Memorial Day."
 - f) July 4.
 - g) The first Monday in September, known as "Labor Day."
 - h) November 11, known as "Veterans Day."
 - i) That Thursday in November proclaimed by the President as "Thanksgiving Day."
 - j) December 25.
 - k) All days appointed by the Governor for a public fast, thanksgiving, or holiday, and all special or limited holidays on which the Governor provides that the schools shall close.
 - l) All days appointed by the president as a public fast, thanksgiving, or holiday, unless it is a special or limited holiday.
 - m) Any other day designated as a holiday by the governing board of the school district. (Ed. Code, § 37220(a).)
- 3) Provides that, except for Veterans Day, the governing board of a school district, by adoption of a resolution, may revise the date upon which the schools of the district close in observance of any of the holidays identified in 3). (Ed. Code, § 37220(e).)
- 4) Permits public schools to be closed, in addition to the days listed in 3), if the governing board of the school follows specific procedures:
- a) March 31, known as "Cesar Chavez Day," or the appropriate Monday or Friday following or preceding that date. (Ed. Code, § 37720.5.)
 - b) April 24, known as "Genocide Remembrance Day." (Ed. Code, § 37220.7.)
 - c) The fourth Friday in September, known as "Native American Day." (Ed. Code, § 37220.7.)
- 5) Requires each campus of the CCC to be closed on the same dates and holidays set forth in 3); permits a campus to be closed on the days listed in 4); and permits a campus to replace the closure for specified holidays with a closure for Lunar New Year. (Ed. Code, § 79020.)
- 6) Requires the CSU to observe November 11, known as "Veterans Day," and be closed on that day. (Ed. Code, § 89005.7(a).)
- 7) Permits each campus of the CSU to observe the 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, known as "Lunar New Year," as a holiday and be closed on that day; the campus may replace observing another prescribed holiday with observing Lunar New Year. (Ed. Code, § 89005.7(b).)
- 8) Requests that each campus of the UC be authorized to observe Lunar New Year and be closed on that day. (Ed. Code, § 92689.)

- 9) Provides that the holidays in this state are:
- a) Every Sunday.
 - b) January 1.
 - c) The third Monday in January, known as "Martin Luther King," Jr. Day.
 - d) Lunar New Year.
 - e) February 12, known as "Lincoln Day."
 - f) The third Monday in February.
 - g) March 31, known as "Cesar Chavez Day."
 - h) April 24, known as "Genocide Remembrance Day."
 - i) The last Monday in May.
 - j) June 19, known as "Juneteenth."
 - k) July 4.
 - l) The first Monday in September.
 - m) September 9, known as "Admission Day."
 - n) The Fourth Friday in September, known as "Native American Day."
 - o) The second Monday in October, known as "Columbus Day."
 - p) November 11, known as "Veterans Day."
 - q) December 25.
 - r) Good Friday from noon to 3:00 pm.
 - s) Every day appointed by the governor for a public fast, thanksgiving, or holiday. (Gov. Code, § 6700.)
- 10) Provides that no person in the State of California shall, on the basis of sex, including gender expression and gender identity; race, color, religion, ancestry, national origin, ethnic group identification, age, mental disability, physical disability, medical condition, genetic information, marital status, or sexual orientation, be unlawfully denied full and equal access to the benefits of, or be unlawfully be subjected to discrimination under, any program or activity that is conducted, operated, or administered by the state or by any state agency, is funded directly by the state, or receives any financial assistance from the state, including the CSU. (Gov. Code, § 11135; *see id.*, § 12926.)
- 11) Provides that no state agency, and no legislative body of a local agency, shall conduct any meeting, conference, or other function in any facility that prohibits the admittance of any person, or persons, on the basis of ancestry or any characteristic listed in 10), or that is inaccessible to disabled persons, or where members of the public may not be present without making a payment or purchase. (Gov. Code §§ 11131, 54961.)
- a) "State agency" means and includes every state body, office, officer, department, division, bureau, board, council, commission, or other state agency. (Gov. Code, § 11131.)
 - b) "Local agency" includes every local agency as defined in Government Code section 54591. (Gov. Code, § 54961.)

This bill:

- 1) Provides that, commencing with the 2026-27 school year, the governing board of a school district, a county office of education, or the governing body of a charter school shall consider making efforts to avoid rescheduling the first day of class and high school graduation, if applicable, on a date for which the governing board of the school district, the county office of education, or the governing body of the charter school knows, or has reason to know, that members of the public would be unable to participate or be present due to the ritual observance of a religious, cultural, or ancestral holiday.
- 2) Requires a governing board of a school district, a county office of education, or the governing body of a charter school to actively seek input from the affected community and consider any other relevant sources to ensure inclusive public participation in considering and making the determination in 1).
- 3) Provides that, commencing with the 2026-27 academic year, the governing board of a community college and the CSU shall, and the UC is requested to, make every reasonable effort when developing academic calendars to avoid calendaring an institutional event on a date for which the institution of higher education knows, or has reason to know, that members of the public would be unable to participate or be present due to the ritual observance of a religious, cultural, or ancestral holiday.
- 4) Provides that, for purposes of 3), "institutional event" means an event on the academic or institutional calendar for which students are mandated to attend, including, but not limited to:
 - a) Student orientation.
 - b) Student housing move-in day.
 - c) Academic examination days.
 - d) The beginning or ending of an academic term.
 - e) Commencement ceremonies.
- 5) Provides that, in considering and making a determination of which dates to avoid under 3), the governing board of a community college and the CSU shall, and the UC is requested to, seek input from the student and faculty organizations on campus prior to the calendaring of institutional events.
- 6) Requires a state agency to make every reasonable effort to avoid conducting any meeting, conference, or other function on a date for which the state agency knows, or has reason to know, that members of the public would be unable to participate due to the ritual observance of a religious, cultural, or ancestral holiday, including, but not limited to:
 - a) Eid-al-Adha.
 - b) Eid-al-Fitr.

- c) Feast of the Nativity.
 - d) Maha Shivaratri.
 - e) The first and last two days of Pesach, also known as Passover.
 - f) Rosh Hashana.
 - g) Yom Kippur.
 - h) Diwali.
 - i) Dussehra.
- 7) Provides that a legislative body is encouraged to make efforts to avoid conducting any meeting, conference, or other function on a date for which the legislative body knows, or has reason to know, that members of the public would be unable to participate or be present due to the ritual observance of a religious, cultural, or ancestral holiday, including, but not limited to, the holidays listed in 6).

COMMENTS

1. Author's comment

According to the author:

No one should have to choose between practicing their faith and their education. Unfortunately, this has been an ongoing dilemma for minority communities when important meetings and academic milestones are scheduled on significant religious or cultural holidays. AB 395 takes a proactive approach to respecting the diverse traditions of Californians, and furthers the intent and purpose of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by ensuring that state institutions work for all communities.

2. This bill requires schools, California's public colleges and universities, and state and local agencies to make efforts to avoid scheduling events on dates of cultural or religious significance

California is remarkably culturally and religiously diverse.¹ Our existing state holidays reflect this diversity, recognizing dates such as Lunar New Year, Cesar Chavez Day, Genocide Remembrance Day, Juneteenth, Native American Day, Veterans Day, and Good Friday from noon to 3:00 p.m.² The existing list of state holidays does not, of course, represent a complete list of holidays which Californians celebrate – far from it.

¹ See, e.g., Pew Research Center, Religious Landscape Study: People in California, 2023-2024 (2025) <https://www.pewresearch.org/religious-landscape-study/state/california/>; Public Policy Institute of California, California's Population (Jan. 2025) <https://www.ppic.org/publication/californias-population/>. All links in this analysis are current as of June 28, 2026.

² Gov. Code, § 6700.

The state and local entities have a variety of tools to ensure that Californians can celebrate days of religious or cultural significance that aren't also state holidays. The state allows its employees to receive eight hours of holiday credit, rather than personal holiday credit, when they take a day off to observe a holiday or ceremony of the employee's religion, culture, or heritage.³ At the local level, some entities plan days off around dates known to have significance in the community; for example, the Los Angeles Unified School District often schedules unassigned days to align with Rosh Hashanah and Yom Kippur.

This bill encourages other state and local entities, including schools and public colleges and universities, to give similar consideration to the cultural and religious practices of their communities when scheduling meetings, conferences, and days of significance, such as the first day of school and move-in day.

The degree of the consideration required under the bill varies by institution type:

- The governing board of a school district, county office of education, or governing body of a charter school "shall consider making efforts" to avoid scheduling the first day of classes and high school graduation on dates which the school knows, or has reason to know, that members of the public would be unable to participate or be present due to the ritual observance of a religious, cultural, or ancestral holiday.
- The governing board of a CCC and the CSU are required to, and the UC is requested to, "make every reasonable effort" to avoid scheduling conflicts with religious, cultural, or ancestral holidays when developing their academic calendars.
- State agencies are similarly required to "make every reasonable effort" to avoid scheduling meetings and functions on religious, cultural, or ancestral holidays; the bill includes a non-exhaustive list of the holidays that should be given consideration.
- Local agencies are "encouraged to consider making efforts" to avoid scheduling conflicts when they know or should know that the date will conflict with the ritual observances of members of the public, and the bill includes the same non-exhaustive list of holidays that should be given consideration. The schools, colleges, and universities are also required – except for the UC, which is requested – to seek input from the student and faculty organizations on campus prior to calendaring institutional events.

The author has agreed to amend the "make every reasonable effort" requirement for state agencies and public colleges and universities to instead require "good faith reasonable efforts," which should help concerns raised by the Senate Governmental Organizations Committee set forth in Comment 4, below. The author has also agreed to amendments to specify that the only recourse for a violation is injunctive relief, and that

³ *Id.*, § 19853.2.

to prevail on an such an action, a person who was harmed must demonstrate, by clear and convincing evidence, that the violation was due to bad faith, willful misconduct, or callous disregard on the part of the defendant. This high bar for relief should insulate public officials from frivolous suits while protecting the rights of persons targeted by bad faith actors.

3. First Amendment questions

The First Amendment to the United States Constitution protects religious freedom in two ways: by providing that Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of a religion (the establishment clause) and that Congress shall make no law prohibiting the free exercise of religion (the free exercise clause).⁴ Both clauses were applied to the states in the 1940s.⁵ As commentators have noted, there is “often a tension between the establishment and free exercise clauses” because “[g]overnment actions to facilitate free exercise might be challenged as impermissible establishments, and government efforts to restrain from establishing religion might be objected to as denying the free exercise of religion.”⁶

The framework for analyzing whether government action is protected under the establishment clause or the free exercise clause is in flux. Prior to the 2010s, the question of whether a government action violated the establishment clause would be examined under the “*Lemon* test,” a three-step inquiry to determine whether a government action resulted in excessive “entanglement” with, or apparent endorsement of, religion;⁷ and a free exercise claim was subjected to the “*Smith* test,” which provided that neutral laws of general applicability did not, absent a motivation to interfere with religion, violate the First Amendment.⁸ Since the mid-2010s, however, there has been a significant shift in this area of law, including the Supreme Court abrogating *Lemon* without a formal holding to that effect,⁹ and the Supreme Court relying on other parts of the First Amendment – such as its protection of speech – to strike down neutral laws of general applicability that prohibited, e.g., discrimination which the plaintiff claimed was required by their religion.¹⁰ Additionally, the Supreme Court now appears far more likely to interpret the free exercise clause to trump the establishment clause, repeatedly holding that the government cannot make funds available only to secular

⁴ U.S. Const., 1st amend.

⁵ See *Cantwell v. Connecticut* (1940) 310 U.S. 296 (free exercise clause); *Everson v. Bd. of Education* (1947) 330 U.S. 1 (establishment clause).

⁶ Chemerinsky, *Constitutional Law: Principles and Policies* (5th ed. 2015) p. 1249.

⁷ *Lemon v. Kurtzman* (1971) 403 U.S. 602, abrogation recognized in *Groff v. DeJoy* (2023) 600 U.S. 447.

⁸ *Employment Division v. Smith* (1990) 494 U.S. 872.

⁹ E.g., *Groff v. DeJoy* (2023) 600 U.S. 447, 460 n. 7; *Kennedy v. Bremerton School Dist.* (2022) 597 U.S. 507, 535-536.

¹⁰ E.g., *303 Creative LLC v. Elenis* (2023) 600 U.S. 570, 593-595.

sources on the basis that “the [f]ree [e]xercise [c]lause forbids discrimination on the basis of religious status.”¹¹

One establishment clause rule that appears to still be good law is that, “[w]hen a state establishes a denominational preference, courts must ‘treat the law as suspect’ and ‘apply ‘strict scrutiny in adjudging its constitutionality.’ ”¹² Under this rule, “the government may not prefer one religion over another.”¹³

Facially, this bill does not require a school board, institution of higher education, or state or local agency to favor any specific holidays or faiths when creating a calendar; it simply asks these entities to do their best to avoid scheduling events on religious, cultural, or ancestral holidays. The amendments agreed to by the author appear to significantly reduce the risk of First Amendment challenges — “good faith efforts” is less concerning than “every reasonable effort” in terms of the degree of effort an entity is required to make to avoid scheduling conflicts.

4. Input from the Senate Governmental Organization Committee

This bill touches on matters within the Senate Governmental Organization Committee’s jurisdiction, but the bill was referred only to the Senate Education Committee and this Committee. The Senate Governmental Organization Committee therefore offers these comments:

Regarding the proposed amendments to Government Code Section 11131, these changes could significantly and adversely impact the ability of state agencies to carry out even their most fundamental functions. For instance, the bill’s broad definition of “state agency” appears to encompass every state entity, including the California State Legislature. Under this legislation, the Legislature would be required to make every reasonable effort to avoid scheduling any meeting on dates where it has reason to believe that members of the public might be unable to participate due to the observance of any religious, cultural, or ancestral holiday.

The language of the bill is so expansive that, in practice, the Legislature may be compelled to refrain from conducting any function if a single member of the public could be prevented from attending because of an observance — not only of a religious holiday but also of any cultural or ancestral holiday. Applying this standard, the bill appears to prioritize avoiding scheduling conflicts related to religious, cultural, or ancestral holidays over the Legislature’s ability to perform its

¹¹ *Carson as next friend of O.C. v. Makin* (2022) 596 U.S. 767, 787; see, e.g., *Espinoza v. Montana Dept. of Revenue* (2020) 591 U.S. 464, 484.

¹² *Catholic Charities Bureau, Inc. v. Wisconsin Labor & Industry Review Commission* (2025) 605 U.S. —, 145 S.Ct. 1583, 1591.

¹³ *Id.* at p. 1592.

essential duties. Given the existence of critical legislative deadlines, this raises serious concerns.

For example, in 2025, the deadline for each house to pass bills is September 12. The preceding day, September 11, is federally recognized as Patriot Day, commemorating the nearly 3,000 victims of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks. Should this bill become law, the California Legislature would be obligated to make every reasonable effort to avoid conducting floor sessions on September 11 in recognition of this cultural observance. It is reasonable to infer that “every reasonable effort” would include attempting to conduct all necessary business either on September 10 or September 12. However, it is important to note that the holiday of Rosh Hashanah – explicitly referenced in the bill – often occurs in September. For instance, in 2018, Rosh Hashanah was observed over two days from September 9 through September 11.

This example illustrates only one scenario involving a single state entity. Given that the bill applies to all state agencies and encompasses every religious, ancestral, and cultural holiday, its implementation could render many state agencies unable to fulfill some of their most basic operational responsibilities.

5. Amendments

As noted above, the author has agreed to amendments to modify the standard of effort required for state agencies and public colleges and universities, and to establish an injunctive relief process as the only available remedy for a violation. The amendments are set forth below, subject to any nonsubstantive changes the Office of Legislative Counsel may make.

Amendment 1

At page 4, in line 20, delete “make every reasonable effort” and insert “make good faith reasonable efforts”

Amendment 2

At page 4, after line 40, insert:

(d) (1) A person who has suffered harm as a result of a violation of this section may bring a civil action. The sole remedy available in that action shall be injunctive relief.

(2) To prevail in an action for injunctive relief brought pursuant to paragraph (1), the plaintiff shall demonstrate by clear and convincing evidence that the violation was due to bad faith, willful misconduct, or callous disregard on the part of the defendant.

Amendment 3

At page 5, in line 12, delete “every reasonable effort” and insert “make good faith reasonable efforts”

Amendment 4

At page 5, between lines 27 and 28, insert:

(d) (1) A person who has suffered harm as a result of a violation of subdivision (c) may bring a civil action. The sole remedy available in that action shall be injunctive relief.

(2) To prevail in an action for injunctive relief brought pursuant to paragraph (1), the plaintiff shall demonstrate by clear and convincing evidence that the violation was due to bad faith, willful misconduct, or callous disregard on the part of the defendant.

6. Arguments in support

According to the Student Senate of the California Community Colleges:

This bill would require the governing board of a school district, charter school, or a county office of education to consider making efforts to avoid scheduling the first day of class and high school graduation on a date for which the governing board knows, or has reason to know, that members of the public would be unable to participate or be present due to the ritual observance of a religious, cultural, or ancestral holiday. The bill also would establish similar provisions for public institutions of higher education, state agencies, and legislative bodies to make every reasonable effort to avoid conducting any meeting, conference, or other function on a date for which the entity knows or has reason to know, that members of the public would be unable to participate or be present.

This bill would not require public schools to change their calendars, but rather require them to consider making efforts to avoid scheduling the first day of class and high school graduation on a date that members of the public would be unable to participate or be present due to the ritual observance of a religious, cultural, or ancestral holiday. As noted by the author, many cultural, religious, or ancestral holidays follow a lunar calendar; therefore resulting in those dates shifting annually in the Gregorian, or solar calendar of January to December.

No one should have to choose between practicing their faith and their education. Unfortunately, this has been an ongoing dilemma for minority communities when important meetings and academic milestones are scheduled on significant religious or cultural holidays. AB 395 takes a proactive approach to respecting the diverse

traditions of Californians, and furthers the intent and purpose of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by ensuring that state institutions work for all communities.

According to a statewide coalition of Jewish organizations, including Jewish California:

AB 395 seeks to uphold the spirit of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 by ensuring that religious and cultural minorities are not systemically excluded from state processes due to the scheduling of public meetings or academic events on days of religious observance. Currently, when a state agency holds a public meeting or a university schedules its first day of classes on a religious or cultural holiday, individuals who cannot work or participate on such days – including observant members of Jewish, Muslim, Hindu, and other communities – are placed at a significant disadvantage. This is a quiet but persistent form of exclusion.

This bill would require state agencies to make every reasonable effort to avoid holding public meetings on major religious and cultural holidays that prevent participation. It would also encourage public colleges, universities, K-12 districts, and local governments to adopt similar inclusive scheduling practices. In doing so, AB 395 fosters a state culture where Californians of all backgrounds can fully engage in civic life and public education without compromising their identity or beliefs.

As a Jewish community, we know firsthand the challenges of balancing religious observance with civic participation. When government agencies or public institutions hold key events on Shabbat or Jewish holidays, observant Jews are forced to choose between faith and participation – a choice no Californian should have to make. AB 395 ensures our public systems reflect the diversity of the people they serve.

SUPPORT

Jewish California (sponsor)

30 Years After

Adat Shalom Los Angeles

ADL

Agudath Israel of America

AJC Los Angeles

AJC Northern California

AJC San Diego

American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO

Armenian National Committee of American Western Region

Bay Area Center to Counter Antisemitism

Bay Area Jewish Coalition Education & Advocacy

Beverly Hills Synagogue

Board of Rabbis of Southern California

California Charter Schools Association

California Jewish Democrats
California Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism
California School Employees Association (CSEA), AFL-CIO
CHAI Marin
Church State Council
Coalition of Hindus of North America
Contra Costa Jewish Democrats
Democrats for Israel – Los Angeles
Fresno Unified School District
Hadassah
Hillel of San Diego
Holocaust Museum LA
Inland and Desert Hillel
Intercultural Network Group
JCAN
JCC - Federation of San Luis Obispo
JCRC Bay Area
JCRC of Greater Santa Barbara
JCRC, Jewish Long Beach
Jewish Center for Justice
Jewish Coalition of Berkeley
Jewish Community Federation and Endowment Fund
Jewish Community Relations Council, Sacramento Region
Jewish Council for Public Affairs
Jewish Democratic Club of Marin
Jewish Democratic Coalition of the Bay Area
Jewish Family & Children's Services of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin & Sonoma
Counties
Jewish Family Service LA
Jewish Family Service of San Diego
Jewish Family Service of the Desert
Jewish Family Services of Silicon Valley
Jewish Federation Los Angeles
Jewish Federation of Greater Santa Barbara
Jewish Federation of Orange County
Jewish Federation of San Diego
Jewish Federation of the Desert
Jewish Federation of the Greater San Gabriel and Pomona Valleys
Jewish Federation of the Sacramento Region
Jewish Federation of Ventura County
Jewish Free Loan Association
Jewish Partisan Educational Foundation
Jewish Political Action Committee of California
Jewish Long Beach

Jewish Silicon Valley
Jewish War Veterans of the USA, Department of California
JFCS East Bay
JFCS Long Beach and Orange County
JVS SoCal
Muslim Public Affairs Council
National Council of Jewish Women San Francisco
Northern California Jewish Labor Committee
Oakland Jewish Alliance
Palo Alto Jewish Alliance
SF Jews in School
Simon Wiesenthal Center
StandWithUs
Student Senate for California Community Colleges
Teach Coalition
Valley Beth Shalom
One individual

OPPOSITION

None received

RELATED LEGISLATION

Pending legislation: None known.

Prior legislation:

AB 989 (Ramos, 2025) adds the fourth Friday in September, known as “Native American Day,” as a paid holiday for state employees, as defined. AB 989 died in the Assembly Appropriations Committee.

AB 268 (Kalra, Ch. 358, Stats. 2025) added Diwali 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 Diwali.

SB 461 (Wahab, Ch. 398, Stats. 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 2883 (Low, Ch. 972, Stats. 2023) authorized each campus of the CSU, and requested each campus of the UC, to observe a specified date, known as “Lunar New Year,” as a holiday, and be closed on that day.

AB 264 (Ting, Ch. 517, Stats. 2023) authorized a community college to close to observe Lunar New Year, as specified.

AB 2596 (Low, Ch. 792, Stats. 2022) recognizes 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 1801 (Nazarian, Ch. 761, Stats. 2022) added April 24, known as “Genocide Remembrance Day,” to the list of state holidays; authorized state employees to elect to take time off with pay in recognition of Genocide Remembrance Day, as specified; and authorized community colleges and public schools to close on Genocide Remembrance Day, as specified.

AB 1655 (Jones-Sawyer, Ch. 753, Stats. 2022) added June 19, known as “Juneteenth,” to the list of state holidays and authorized state employees to elect to take time off with pay in recognition of Juneteenth, as specified.

PRIOR VOTES:

Senate Education Committee (Ayes 7, Noes 0)

Assembly Floor (Ayes 79, Noes 0)

Assembly Appropriations Committee (Ayes 14, Noes 0)

Assembly Higher Education Committee (Ayes 10, Noes 0)

Assembly Education Committee (Ayes 9, Noes 0)
