
THIRD READING

Bill No: SCR 134
Author: Wahab (D), et al.
Introduced: 2/23/26
Vote: 21

SUBJECT: Nowroz

SOURCE: Author

DIGEST: This resolution celebrates March 21, 2026, as the beginning of the Persian New Year and extend best wishes for a peaceful and prosperous Nowroz to all Californians.

ANALYSIS: This resolution makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) Nowroz, the day of the vernal equinox, is celebrated as the beginning of the traditional new year by more than 300 million people around the world. It is celebrated on the exact day of the astronomical northward equinox, which occurs on or around March 21.
- 2) Nowroz is a combination of two Dari words: the first, “now,” means new, and the second, “roz,” means day. Together they mean “new day,” which commemorates the new year for many Afghan and Central Asian communities all over the world.
- 3) The “new day” symbolizes a commitment to springtime renewal, peace, and overall solidarity between generations, families, and communities. Nowroz symbolizes a time of renewal and community. It harkens the departure from the trials and tribulations of the previous year, and brings hope for the new year.
- 4) During Nowroz, people visit family, reconnect with community members, forgive past wrongs, and exchange gifts as a sign of peace and friendship, and these festivities last multiple days.
- 5) Nowroz is celebrated by Americans of all backgrounds, including those with Baha’i, Christian, Jewish, Muslim, Zoroastrian, and nonreligious backgrounds.

- 6) Nowroz serves to remind the United States of the many lasting contributions of the Persian civilization to the world and the noteworthy impact of Afghan Americans and Iranians to the social and economic fabric of society in the United States, including one of the earliest expressions of human rights in the world—the Cylinder of Cyrus the Great. The United States Census Bureau reports that the largest population of Afghans outside of Afghanistan is in California and that 54% of Iranian immigrants in America live in California.

This resolution joins all communities throughout the state in celebrating the Spring Equinox, recognizes March 21, 2026, as the International Day of Nowroz, and extends best wishes for a peaceful and prosperous Nowroz to all Californians.

Related/Prior Legislation

SCR 126 (Wahab, Resolution Chapter 78, Statutes of 2024)

SCR 37 (Wahab, Resolution Chapter 70, Statutes of 2023)

SR 24 (Wahab, 2025) – Adopted in Senate.

HR 18 (Gabriel, 2025) – Adopted in Assembly.

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

SUPPORT: (Verified 3/2/26)

None received

OPPOSITION: (Verified 3/2/26)

None received

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