

Keven J. Stratton proposes the following substitute bill:

**State Holy Day Amendments**

2026 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Keven J. Stratton**

House Sponsor:

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill addresses state holy days.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- requires a school district, a charter school, and an institution of higher education to prioritize, to the extent possible, scheduling school breaks to coincide with state holy days;
- requires a government entity to place a high priority on approving an employee's request to take personal leave on a state holy day; and
- makes technical changes.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:

**63G-1-1101**, as enacted by Laws of Utah 2025, Chapter 351

ENACTS:

**53G-4-416**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

**53G-5-415**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

**53H-3-1304**, Utah Code Annotated 1953

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*Be it enacted by the Legislature of the state of Utah:*

Section 1. Section **53G-4-416** is enacted to read:

**53G-4-416 . School district prioritization of school breaks to coincide with state holy days.**

30 Starting with the 2027-28 school year, when setting the schedule for a school year, a  
31 school district shall, to the extent possible, prioritize scheduling school breaks to coincide with  
32 Good Friday and other state holy days described in Section 63G-1-1101.

33 Section 2. Section **53G-5-415** is enacted to read:

34 **53G-5-415 . Charter school prioritization of school breaks to coincide with state**  
35 **holy days.**

36 Starting with the 2027-28 school year, when setting the schedule for a school year, a  
37 charter school shall, to the extent possible, prioritize scheduling school breaks to coincide with  
38 Good Friday and other state holy days described in Section 63G-1-1101.

39 Section 3. Section **53H-3-1304** is enacted to read:

40 **53H-3-1304 . Institution of higher education prioritization of school breaks to**  
41 **coincide with state holy days.**

42 Starting with the 2027-28 school year, when setting the schedule for a school year, a,  
43 institution of higher education shall, to the extent possible, prioritize scheduling school breaks  
44 to coincide with Good Friday and other state holy days described in Section 63G-1-1101.

45 Section 4. Section **63G-1-1101** is amended to read:

46 **63G-1-1101 . State holy days.**

- 47 (1) As used in this section, "state holy day" means an annual day or other time period of  
48 special religious significance that the state officially recognizes and observes as a holy  
49 day under this section.
- 50 (2) A state holy day is not a legal holiday or state holiday, unless the state holy day is also  
51 designated as a legal holiday under Section 63G-1-301.
- 52 (3) The following are state holy days:
- 53 (a) Holi, on the last full moon day of the Hindu lunisolar month of Phalguna;
  - 54 (b) Lunar New Year, from the lunar calendar's first new moon through the lunar  
55 calendar's first full moon;
  - 56 (c) Good Friday, on the Friday preceding Easter Sunday;
  - 57 (d) Easter Sunday, on the first Sunday after the first full moon that occurs on or after the  
58 spring equinox;
  - 59 (e) Eid al-Fitr, on the first day of the Islamic lunar month of Shawwal;
  - 60 (f) Passover, for eight days, starting on the fifteenth day of the Hebrew lunisolar month  
61 of Nisan;
  - 62 (g) Vesak Day, on the first full moon of the Hindu lunisolar month of Vaisakha;
  - 63 (h) Eid al-Adha, on the tenth day of the Islamic lunar month of Dhu al-Hijjah;

- 64 (i) Rosh Hashanah, on the first two days of the Hebrew lunisolar month of Tishrei;
- 65 (j) Yom Kippur, on the tenth day of the Hebrew lunisolar month of Tishrei;
- 66 (k) Diwali, on the fifteenth day of the Hindu lunisolar month of Kartik; and
- 67 (l) Christmas, on December 25.

68 (4) A state government entity or local government entity shall place a high priority on  
69 approving an employee's request to take personal leave on a state holy day.

70 Section 5. **Effective Date.**

71 This bill takes effect on May 6, 2026.