

**Representative Norman K Thurston** proposes the following substitute bill:

**STATE HOLIDAY MODIFICATIONS**

2023 GENERAL SESSION

STATE OF UTAH

**Chief Sponsor: Lincoln Fillmore**

House Sponsor: Steve Eliason

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**LONG TITLE**

**General Description:**

This bill amends provisions related to state holidays.

**Highlighted Provisions:**

This bill:

- modifies annual commemorations to include Diwali.

**Money Appropriated in this Bill:**

None

**Other Special Clauses:**

None

**Utah Code Sections Affected:**

AMENDS:

**63G-1-401**, as last amended by Laws of Utah 2022, Chapter 14

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

Section 1. Section **63G-1-401** is amended to read:

**63G-1-401. Commemorative periods.**

(1) The following days shall be commemorated annually:

- (a) Utah History Day at the Capitol, on the Friday immediately following the fourth



26 Monday in January, to encourage citizens of the state, including students, to participate in  
27 activities that recognize Utah's history;

28 (b) Day of Remembrance for Incarceration of Japanese Americans, on February 19, in  
29 remembrance of the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II;

30 (c) Utah State Flag Day, on March 9;

31 (d) Vietnam Veterans Recognition Day, on March 29;

32 (e) Utah Railroad Workers Day, on May 10;

33 (f) Dandy-Walker Syndrome Awareness Day, on May 11;

34 (g) Armed Forces Day, on the third Saturday in May, in honor of men and women who  
35 are serving or have served in the United States Armed Forces around the world in defense of  
36 freedom;

37 (h) Juneteenth Freedom Day, on the third Saturday in June, in honor of Union General  
38 Gordon Granger proclaiming the freedom of all slaves on June 19, 1865, in Galveston, Texas;

39 (i) Arthrogyrosis Multiplex Congenita Awareness Day, on June 30;

40 (j) Navajo Code Talker Day, on August 14;

41 (k) Rachael Runyan/Missing and Exploited Children's Day, on August 26, the  
42 anniversary of the day three-year-old Rachael Runyan was kidnaped from a playground in  
43 Sunset, Utah, to:

44 (i) encourage individuals to make child safety a priority;

45 (ii) remember the importance of continued efforts to reunite missing children with their  
46 families; and

47 (iii) honor Rachael Runyan and all Utah children who have been abducted or exploited;

48 (l) Constitution Day, on September 17;

49 (m) POW/MIA Recognition Day, on the third Friday in September;

50 (n) Diwali, on the fifteenth day of the Hindu lunisolar month of Kartik, known as  
51 Lakshmi puja, or the Hindu festival of lights;

52 [~~(n)~~] (o) Victims of Communism Memorial Day, on November 7;

53 [~~(o)~~] (p) Indigenous People Day, on the Monday immediately preceding Thanksgiving;

54 and

55 [~~(p)~~] (q) Bill of Rights Day, on December 15.

56 (2) The Department of Veterans and Military Affairs shall coordinate activities, special

57 programs, and promotional information to heighten public awareness and involvement relating  
58 to Subsections (1)(g) and (m).

59 (3) The month of April shall be commemorated annually as Clean Out the Medicine  
60 Cabinet Month to:

61 (a) recognize the urgent need to make Utah homes and neighborhoods safe from  
62 prescription medication abuse and poisonings by the proper home storage and disposal of  
63 prescription and over-the-counter medications; and

64 (b) educate citizens about the permanent medication disposal sites in Utah listed on  
65 useonlyasdirected.org that allow disposal throughout the year.

66 (4) The second full week of April shall be commemorated annually as Animal Care  
67 and Control Appreciation Week to recognize and increase awareness within the community of  
68 the services that animal care and control professionals provide.

69 (5) The first full week of May shall be commemorated annually as State Water Week  
70 to recognize the importance of water conservation, quality, and supply in the state.

71 (6) The third full week of June shall be commemorated annually as Workplace Safety  
72 Week to heighten public awareness regarding the importance of safety in the workplace.

73 (7) The second Friday and Saturday in August shall be commemorated annually as  
74 Utah Fallen Heroes Days to:

75 (a) honor fallen heroes who, during service in the military or public safety, have  
76 sacrificed their lives to protect the country and the citizens of the state; and

77 (b) encourage political subdivisions to acknowledge and honor fallen heroes.

78 (8) The third full week in August shall be commemorated annually as Drowsy Driving  
79 Awareness Week to:

80 (a) educate the public about the relationship between fatigue and driving performance;  
81 and

82 (b) encourage the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Transportation to  
83 recognize and promote educational efforts on the dangers of drowsy driving.

84 (9) The third full week of September shall be commemorated annually as Gang  
85 Prevention Awareness Week.

86 (10) The month of October shall be commemorated annually as Italian-American  
87 Heritage Month.

88           (11) The month of November shall be commemorated annually as American Indian  
89 Heritage Month.

90           (12) The first full week of December shall be commemorated annually as Avalanche  
91 Awareness Week to:

92           (a) educate the public about avalanche awareness and safety;

93           (b) encourage collaborative efforts to decrease annual avalanche accidents and  
94 fatalities; and

95           (c) honor Utah residents who have lost their lives in avalanches, including those who  
96 lost their lives working to prevent avalanches.