

SENATE, No. 3837

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
219th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED JUNE 1, 2021

Sponsored by:

Senator JOSEPH P. CRYAN

District 20 (Union)

SYNOPSIS

Designates Eid Ul-Fitr and Eid Ul-Adha as State and public holidays.

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



1 AN ACT concerning legal holidays and amending P.L.2008, c.89
2 and R.S.36:1-1.

3
4 **BE IT ENACTED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the State*
5 *of New Jersey:*

6
7 1. Section 1 of P.L.2008, c89 (C.11A:6-24.1) is amended to
8 read as follows:

9 25. a. Paid holidays granted to all State government employees
10 each calendar year shall be limited to the following:

11 (1) January 1, known as New Year's Day;

12 (2) the third Monday in January, known as Martin Luther King's
13 Birthday;

14 (3) the third Monday in February, known as Washington's
15 Birthday, which shall be known and celebrated as Presidents Day in
16 this State;

17 (4) the day designated and known as Good Friday;

18 (5) the day designated and known as Eid Ul-Fitr;

19 **[(5)]** (6) the last Monday in May, known as Memorial Day;

20 **[(6)]** (7) June 19, known as Juneteenth Day;

21 **[(7)]** (8) July , known as Independence Day;

22 (9) the day designated and known as Eid Ul-Adha;

23 **[(8)]** (10) the first Monday in September, known as Labor Day;

24 **[(9)]** (11) the second Monday in October, known as Columbus
25 Day;

26 **[(10)]** (12) November 11, known as Armistice Day or Veterans'
27 Day;

28 **[(11)]** (13) the fourth Thursday in November, known as
29 Thanksgiving Day;

30 **[(12)]** (14) December 25, known as Christmas Day; and

31 **[(13)]** (15) any general election day in this State.

32 b. The provisions of this section shall not impair any collective
33 bargaining agreement or contract in effect on the effective date of
34 P.L.2020, c.76. The provision of this section shall take effect in the
35 calendar year following the expiration of the collective bargaining
36 agreements or contracts covering a majority of the Executive
37 Branch employees in effect on the effective date of P.L.2008, c.89.
38 (cf: P.L.2020, c.76, s.1)

39
40 2. R.S.36:1-1 is amended to read as follows:

41 36:1-1. a. The following days in each year shall, for all
42 purposes whatsoever as regards the presenting for payment or
43 acceptance, and of the protesting and giving notice of dishonor, of
44 bills of exchange, bank checks and promissory notes be treated and
45 considered as the first day of the week, commonly called Sunday,

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[(thus)]** in the above bill is
not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

1 and as public holidays, except as provided under subsection d. of
2 this section: January 1, known as New Year's Day; the third
3 Monday in January, known as Martin Luther King's Birthday;
4 February 12, known as Lincoln's Birthday; the third Monday in
5 February, known as Washington's Birthday; the day designated and
6 known as Good Friday; the day designated and known as Eid Ul-
7 Fitr; the last Monday in May, known as Memorial Day; June 19,
8 known as Juneteenth Day; July 4, known as Independence Day; the
9 day designated and known as Eid Ul-Adha; the first Monday in
10 September, known as Labor Day; the second Monday in October,
11 known as Columbus Day; November 11, known as Armistice Day
12 or Veteran's Day, the fourth Thursday in November, known as
13 Thanksgiving Day; December 25, known as Christmas Day; any
14 general election day in this State; every Saturday; and any day
15 heretofore or hereafter appointed, ordered or recommended by the
16 Governor of this State, or the President of the United States, as a
17 day of fasting and prayer, or other religious observance, or as a
18 bank holiday or holidays. All such bills, checks and notes,
19 otherwise presentable for acceptance or payment on any of the days
20 herein enumerated, shall be deemed to be payable and be
21 presentable for acceptance or payment on the secular or business
22 day next succeeding any such holiday.

23 b. Whenever any of the days herein enumerated can and shall
24 fall on a Sunday, the Monday next following shall, for any of the
25 purposes herein enumerated be deemed a public holiday, except as
26 provided under subsection d. of this section; and bills of exchange,
27 checks and promissory notes which otherwise would be presentable
28 for acceptance or payment on such Monday shall be deemed to be
29 presentable for acceptance or payment on the secular or business
30 day next succeeding such holiday.

31 c. In construing this section, every Saturday shall, until 12
32 o'clock noon, be deemed a secular or business day, except as is
33 hereinbefore provided in regard to bills of exchange, bank checks
34 and promissory notes, and the days herein enumerated except bank
35 holidays and Saturdays shall be considered as the first day of the
36 week, commonly called Sunday, and public holidays, for all
37 purposes whatsoever as regards the transaction of business in the
38 public offices of this State, or counties of this State, except as
39 provided under subsection d. of this section; but on all other days or
40 half days, except Sunday or as otherwise provided by law, such
41 offices shall be kept open for the transaction of business.

42 d. Notwithstanding the provisions of subsections a. through c.
43 of this section, when the provisions of this subsection take effect,
44 the following day each calendar year shall not be considered a
45 public holiday for the purposes of conduction State government
46 business:

1 February 12, known as Lincoln’s Birthday.

2 All public offices of State government in this State shall be open
3 on this day for the transaction of business.
4 (cf: P.L.2020, c.76, s.2)

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6 3. This act shall take effect immediately.

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STATEMENT

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11 This bill designates Eid Ul-Fitr and Eid Ul-Adha as State and
12 public holidays.

13 Muslims celebrate two Eids every lunar year, Eid Ul-Fitr and Eid
14 Ul-Adha. Eid Ul-Fitr, which means “festival of the breaking of the
15 fast”, is celebrated first at the conclusion of the Muslim holy month
16 of Ramadan. Muslims in the United States observe this month of
17 sacrifice and contemplation by fasting, reading the Holy Quran, and
18 participating in charity work, worship, and emphasizing self-
19 discipline. Eid Ul-Adha, the “feast of the sacrifice” is celebrated
20 two months later and commemorates Abraham’s willingness to
21 sacrifice his son Isaac. Eid Ul-Adha is the most sacred of the two
22 Eids, and often coincides with the completion of the Hajj
23 pilgrimage, an annual weeklong Islamic pilgrimage in the sacred
24 city of Mecca in Saudi Arabia.

25 Muslim Americans have contributed to every part of society to
26 make advancements in medicine, science, engineering, economics,
27 sports, education, and law. Three percent of adults in New Jersey
28 identify as Muslim, and recognizing the significance of the two Eids
29 by designating both festivals as public holidays will lead to greater
30 education about Islam and Muslim Americans and help Muslim
31 Americans feel a part of the community.