
SENATE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION

Senator Carol Liu, Chair
2015 - 2016 Regular

Bill No: AB 7
Author: Bonta
Version: April 7, 2015
Urgency: No
Consultant: Lenin Del Castillo
Hearing Date: June 10, 2015
Fiscal: No

Subject: Public schools: Larry Itliong Day

SUMMARY

This bill designates October 25th of each year as Larry Itliong Day, and encourages public schools to recognize it as a day of special significance.

BACKGROUND

Existing law proclaims the first week of April as Labor History Week and encourages school districts to commemorate the week with appropriate educational exercises that make pupils aware of the role the labor movement has played in shaping California and the United States.

Existing law designates a number of days as days of special significance to the public schools and educational institutions and encourages them to observe that day, including Ronald Reagan Day (February 6), John Muir Day (April 21), and Harvey Milk Day (May 22).

Existing law also requires public schools to close on a number of holidays, including January 1, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. Day, Lincoln Day, Washington Day, Memorial Day, July 4, Labor Day, Veterans Day, Thanksgiving, December 25, all days appointed by the Governor or the President of the United States for a public fast, holiday, and any other day designated as a holiday by the governing board of the school district. Existing law requires that for some specified holidays for which schools are required to close (Dr. Martin Luther King Day, Lincoln Day, and Washington Day), schools conduct exercises in commemoration.

Additionally, existing law authorizes public schools to close on two other days if the governing board, pursuant to a collective bargaining agreement, agrees to close schools for that purpose. These days are César Chávez (March 31) and Native American Day (fourth Friday in September).

Existing law requires the State Board of Education to ensure that state curriculum on César Chávez and the history of the farm labor movement in the United States include information on the role of immigrants, including Filipino Americans, in that movement.

ANALYSIS

This bill:

- 1) Makes various findings and declarations relative to the life of Larry Itliong and his contributions as a leader in the American farm labor movement and in the Filipino American community, including the finding and declaration that the accomplishments and contributions of Larry Itliong should be properly memorialized within the history and culture of the United States of America.
- 2) Designates October 25th of each year as Larry Itliong Day, a day of special significance, as specified.
- 3) Encourages all public schools and educational institutions to conduct exercises remembering the life of Larry Itliong, recognizing his accomplishments, and familiarizing pupils with the contributions he made to the state.
- 4) Requires the Governor to annually proclaim October 25th of each year as Larry Itliong Day.

STAFF COMMENTS

- 1) ***Need for the bill.*** According to the author's office, "the accomplishments and contributions of Larry Itliong should be properly memorialized within the history and culture of the United States because he is a hero in the socioeconomic and racial justice movement. Although his accomplishments have been recognized in smaller ways, such as being acknowledged in part in the renaming of a Union City middle school, he deserves to be recognized on a statewide level and remembered for his contributions to our state and nation's history."
- 2) ***Larry Itliong.*** This bill recognizes Larry Itliong as a prominent leader in the American farm labor movement. In 1965, as a leader of the Agricultural Workers Organizing Committee of the AFL-CIO, he organized a group of 1,500 Filipinos in an eight day strike against Delano grape growers. Itliong asked César Chávez and his followers to join the strike, and the two leaders' organizations eventually combined, establishing the United Farm Workers of America. Itliong later become the President of the Filipino American Political Association, the first national political Filipino American organization. He was also instrumental in the founding of the Pablo Agbayani Village, a retirement home built by volunteers for retired Filipino Manongs.
- 3) ***Discretionary activities.*** Current law encourages all public schools and educational institutions to observe each day designated and set apart as a day having special significance, and to conduct suitable commemorative exercises. These are not required activities. Current law also includes legislative intent that exercises be integrated into the regular school program and be conducted by the school within the amount of time otherwise budgeted for educational programs.

SUPPORT

Alameda Labor Council
American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees, AFL-CIO
Asian Americans Advancing Justice
Asian Pacific Environmental Network
Berkeley City Council
California College and University Police Chiefs Association
California History Center Foundation (De Anza College)
California Immigrant Policy Center
Filipino American Coalition for Environmental Solidarity
Filipino American National Historical Society, Santa Clara Chapter
Little Manila Foundation
Philippine National Day Association
Philippine Weekend, Inc.
United Farm Workers
Letters from individuals

OPPOSITION

None received.

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