

PUBLIC COMMENTS

HB 1231

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON STATE AFFAIRS

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Hearing Date: April 20, 2021 8:00 AM

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Osman Athar  
Self physician  
Houston, TX

This is an important initiative to celebrate diversity in our midst. Muslims are an important part of our country.

Sadaf Bari  
Self  
Pflugerville, TX

Need eid al adha and eid al fitr off just as we have Christmas and Easter as Holidays. Thank you

Samad Gire  
Alnoor  
Houston, TX

As any religious Holidays. For Muslims the Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha are important holidays. This is the time when we celebrate the joyous days with families and friends. It will be great if these holidays are accorded same level priority and respect as others.

Baseer Pirzada  
Muslim Americans of Texas  
Sugar land, TX

We as Muslim Americans of Texas fully support HB 1231 as it builds bridges of Interfaith harmony among the Abrahamic faiths of Judaism, Christianity and Islam.

Munaiza Syed  
Self  
Irving, TX

There are numerous Texans (and growing) who celebrate these two days as their auspicious days in the year. We request the Texan government to declare these days as public holidays. God bless.

Ahmed Monib  
Self  
Richmond, TX

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It would be a real mark of inclusiveness to finally recognize this holiday of the 2nd largest religion in the world, and celebrated by a significant number of Texans.

Shajeer Noorudeen

Self / Neonatologist (Physician)

Missouri City, TX

Texas has one of the largest Muslim population in the country, numbering more than 29 million individuals. This is a significant number of people in Texas who are followers of one of the 3 Abrahamic faiths.

The Eid Al Fitr commemorates the end of the month of fasting. The Eid Al Adha commemorates Abraham's willingness to obey God's command to sacrifice his first born son, and God's acceptance of Abraham's sincerity and trust in God.

Given Texas's large Muslim population, a significant amount of people celebrate these days. We have optional holidays in Texas for other religious groups, like Yom Kippur, Rosh Hashanah, Good Friday etc. It therefore only makes sense in this context to add Eid Al Fitr and Eid Al Adha to the Texas optional holiday list, which will benefit a large number of the Texas population.

Humaira Suboohi, Mrs

Self- home maker

Austin, TX

This will be very comforting to see that the leadership of our country respects my family religious identity as a American citizen.

Omar Hameed

Self

Cedar park, TX

Please support this bill.

Rehana Essa

Original Bites

Houston, TX

Eid is a special time for us and our families

Muhammad Vaid

Fba Mart LLC

Sugar Land, TX

Thank you.

Shazia Ansar

Self

Sugarland, TX

Eid Ul Fiter and Eid Ul Adha as state holidays

Mansoob Khan

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Self - Software Consultant

Houston, TX

It would be very helpful to celebrate our festival on the given day if we can have a holiday. Would highly appreciate to make Eid-ul-Fitr and Eid-UI-Adha as a state option holiday. Thanks

Shabana Hirani

Self

HOUSTON, TX

We fast 30 days , our kids look forward to celebrate just like any other religion. We deserve a day to do our prayers and eat with our families just like other religion to celebrate our holy month.

Aijaz Hassan

Self

Round Rock, TX

There is a huge population of Muslims in TX and do a lot community work. Also involved with government activities. It will be nice to have above two holidays.

Zubair ali baig mirza, mr

individual

houston, TX

Need to have holiday on eid ul adha and eid ul fitr

Umer Misgar

Self

Austin, TX

Thank you.

Abdul Quadir

Self Employed

Sugar Land, TX

Pls. Designate Eid al Fitr and Eid al Adha as optional holiday. Community will appreciate.

Md Ansari

Self

Houston, TX

Would like to support the bill by signing to request for Eid Al Fitr n aadha as a Holiday

Nayeemuddin Khan

AlNoor

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Houston, TX

Please make these two muslim holidays as optional state holidays.

Husna Lari

Self

Austin, TX

I support this bill, as Muslim students need to celebrate their holidays without worrying about missing school

Shakeib Mashhood

Iamc

Katy, TX

Please make them as holidays

Zeeshan Siddiqui

Self

Houston, TX

Affirmative

Sabeena Ali, MS

Nothing

Houston, TX

We should pass this bill since Ameryis a democratic country

Hafsa Patel

Not organization

Houston, TX

It would be nice that you will be considered a holiday for everybody.

Khizran Fatima

Self, homemaker

Katy, TX

I would really appreciate it if this bill get passed

Izzathulla Jawahar

Self

Houston, TX

I support

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Zubeda Riaz, Teacher

self

katy, TX

i really hope this becomes a holiday so it can represent us in the Muslim community

Haaris Sheikh

Self / Engineer

Katy, TX

Approve this bill.

Salman Siddique

Self

Houston, TX

When other religious festivals and holidays are recognised by majority of public, it's high time that the two major Islamic holidays are recognised too

Areeb Qureshi, None

Self

Katy, TX

Hopefully it can be a holiday that represents us Muslims

Sadia Jalali

Self

SUGAR LAND, TX

This is important as Islam is the second largest religion in the country and these 2 Eid holidays are the only major days of religious observance. I am hopeful they will be recognized by the State.

Abdul Baasit Hafiz

Self / ASIC Design EDA Engineer

Austin, TX

Islam is a religion of peace just like other religions.

Also Islam is an Abrahamic religion which confirms the message of all other Abrahamic faiths and conveys the message that it's the continuity of message from earlier Prophets like Abraham, Jacob, David, Moses, Jesus and more. It confirms that Prophet Mohammad is the last messenger from the one & only GOD which entire humanity worships.

Off late Islam and Muslims are maligned due to bad actions of terrorists who happen to belong to Islamic community but they neither follow the teaching of Islam nor have any respect for it.

We should not let a bunch of criminals define a peaceful religion or its community.

Common Muslims are a peaceful, hard working, law abiding citizens of the world, loving and caring community who respect all

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humans irrespective of their age, race, ethnicity, religion, gender and sexual orientation.

Islam teaches its followers to respect all religions and peace loving people and return peace with peace, love with love.

In fact it teaches to restrain oneself even when someone is targeting them with hate. It professes war/violence only for self defense in case of someone attacking you.

It teaches to respect the law of the country you reside in unless the ruler/government is forcing you to commit a non permissible act (like eating pork, drinking alcohol, worshipping someone other than The Almighty God, taking usury). There is no country where the ruler/government forces someone to do such things. Hence it's a religious obligation of every Muslim to follow the law of the country.

Majority of the Muslim community are law abiding citizens of every country and they have no hatred towards any other country. They are patriotic and at the same time love and respect all human beings.

Muslim community in Texas and especially Austin (where I reside) works for the welfare of all Americans & all humans.

NAMCC is active in distributing free food/groceries to the needy every week and is open to all.

It's high time we recognize Muslim community for the goodness of the majority and not discriminate them for the bad deeds of the criminal minority.

Eid al-Fitr & Eid al-Adha are 2 major religious festivals of Muslim community.

Considering these auspicious days for optional holidays by the state of Texas would mean people and representatives of Texas consider the Muslim community as one of them.

Muslim community will be honored by this designation and also it would reflect that all other communities and the representatives of state of Texas love and respect the Muslim community just like all other communities.

This would be an excellent step in rejecting the terrorists who happen to belong to Muslim community but perform inhuman actions rejected and despised by Islam and the Muslim community.

It also would be an excellent message to the Islamophobic and the Muslim hating crowd that the majority of the people consider the peace loving Muslim community as one of their own.

Shahida Khan

Self

Sugar Land, TX

Many Muslims celebrate these Eid days and HB 1231 would make their Eid days so much easier and celebratory for them to be recognized as holidays.

Afshan Jilani

Self - retired

Spring, TX

We look forward to the designation of our religious holidays in Texas. Thank you for your consideration.

Asif Mohd

Vigna Inc

Austin, TX

Please assign holiday on Eid-al-fitr and Eid-al-Adha.

Khalid Khan

Private

Houston, TX

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Eid al Fitr and Eid al Adha

Mohammad Bhigani

Self

Houston, TX

I am a Muslim Texan and will be honored to have you pass this bill for the over 250,000 Muslims of Texas

Afia Naqvi, MD

Self/ physician

Houston, TX

All Muslims celebrate EID and it should be a holiday for our children in school

Khaled Khalil, Mr

Self

Katy, TX

Please consider the growing number of Muslim in Texas and in US in general

Zahoor Gire, Executive Director

Al-Noor Society of Greater Houston

Houston, TX

Muslims throughout the State of Texas celebrating both Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha work in government offices and other private businesses and kids going to school need this holiday to be able to participate in prayer services and celebrate it with their families without taking a vacation day or time off. Kids will be able to celebrate and receive gifts on this day that is important to them just like Christmas is to the kids that celebrate it. By passing this bill it will save our organization from issuing excuse letters to school kids and to the workforce. I sincerely thank Rep. Moody and Rep. Jetton for authoring this bill for our community.

Nafees Asghar

Muslim Americans of Texas

Richmond, TX

The Muslim Americans of Texas are an integral part of Texas. We are doctors, we are engineers, we are attorneys, we are real estate developers, we are IT specialists, we are law enforcement officers. We are part of Texas and Texas is a part of our lives. The Muslims celebrate two festivals of Eid every year. The passage of this bill will allow parents to explain why we celebrate Eid to our children. This will align the state more with freedom of religion.  
May Allah bless Texas and the USA.

Mo Nehad, Ofc.

Muslim Americans of Texas - Self - Small Business Owner - Police Officer

Richmond, TX

It is very important to understand the various demographics in Fort Bend County. With us being people of the Abrahamic faith, it

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is important to recognize all faiths and the importance of their religious holidays. I am thankful to Legislator Moody and Jetton for introducing this bill and supporting it whole heartedly.

Muzaffar Siddiqi, 11

Muslim Americans of Texas - Self - Small Business Owner

Sugar Land, TX

Thank You so much for introducing this bill. Very appreciative of the services by Legislator Moody and Jetton. This is going to be very helpful for the Muslim Community and others as we can ensure our kids do not have to get special treatment to get time off from schools. It also important for our neighbors to know who we all are, while educating us about different faiths.

Syed ali

self

Katy, TX

Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha are the 2 occasions Muslim community celebrates as a religious festive. A big number of muslim students are enrolled in fort bend county. Every year kids have to skip school if they are to join their families on these festivities. Families from all over the US visit each other or travel during these festivities. Eid being allowed to be a public holiday will be a great gesture of the non-muslims to celebrate our occasion like Muslims celebrate Christmas and other occasions with Non Muslims.

Rizwaan Khaja

MATX

Houston, TX

Appreciate for the consideration

Noor Saleh

Self; Minaret Foundation

The Woodlands, TX

HB 1231 enables employees to celebrate Eid with their families, ensuring they have the time off they deserve. It is a critical step in furthering religious equity by recognizing the holidays in Islam, Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha.

Athar Afzal

Self

Richmond, TX

I strongly agree for an optional holidays for those days.

Letitia Plummer, Dr.

City of Houston, At Large 4.

Houston, TX

I am a City of Houston Council Member that is proposing a similar measure for city employees. I am including the letter that to I sent the Council and the Mayor.

It is important that as elected officials, we acknowledge the diversity of our employees and treat them equally, especially in the

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matter of denominational holidays. Please treat this letter as my testimony to support the designation of Eid-ul Fitr and Eid al Adha as optional holidays.

Dear Mayor Turner,

We are fortunate to be living in the most diverse city in the United States and we are proud that our city employees reflect this diversity. Our council staff is comprised of people of the Christian, Muslim, Jewish and Hindu faiths and it is with that in mind that we are requesting optional religious holidays for city employees.

Religious holidays are an important time for families to come together and share traditions and meals; however, for most denominational holidays employees must book personal time. Currently, state employees are allowed Good Friday, Yom Kippur, and Rosh Hashanah as optional holidays. Bipartisan House Bill 1231 would also include Eid ul Fitr and Eid ul Adha as optional holidays for state employees. We are requesting that the City of Houston, either by executive order, or by a vote of City Council allow City Employees to take denominational holidays as optional holidays, schedule permitting. In addition to the above, we respectfully request Holi and Diwali be included in the list of optional holidays as well.

Thank you for your consideration and all your administration has done to promote and advance the diversity of this great city.

Yours Sincerely,

Dr. Letitia Plummer

City of Houston Council Member, At- Large 4

Mohammed Siddiqui

Self

Plano, TX

We need Eid as a optional holiday

Mohammad Dadani

Indian American Muslim Council - Dallas Chapter

Plano, TX

Dear Texas Representatives,

I am writing as the President of the Dallas chapter of the Indian American Muslim Council and calling upon you to support this bill and make into law. Texas is the state with the largest Muslim population in the United States and Muslims are thoroughly integrated into the fabric of Texas. They serve the people of Texas as doctors, educators, law-enforcement officials, firefighters, civil servants and of course as students in Texas schools represent the future of Texas and the United States. Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha are the two most widely celebrated Muslim holidays around the world and allowing Muslims to take an optional holiday on this day, will go a long way to further welcoming those Muslims who have made Texas their home and recognize their contributions to this great state. I hope you will do the needful.

Sincerely,

Mohammad Yusuf Dadani

RAFAT JILANI, Ms.

Slef

Sugarland, TX

We definitely need this Holiday.. we live in a cultural diverse community!

Riz Shaikh, Volunteer

IAMC

Dallas, TX

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Thank you.

Suleman Lalani

Self

Sugar land, TX

Great gesture. We need to appreciate the diversity and acknowledge the celebration of Eid for our American Muslim citizens and help raise awareness and mutual understanding

Summara Kanwal

Self

Richmond, TX

Eid ul fitr and Eid al Adha are religious celebrations. If we are busy in schools or at work places how can we celebrate it.

RAHAT ALI, Retired Teacher

Individual representative for Muslim students

Sugarland, TX

National Holidays on Muslim Religious Holidays

Ubqua Jilani

Rafat Jilani

Sugarland, TX

Islam is the fastest growing religion and there are so many Muslim students going to school where they have to ask for permission to get a day off for their religious holiday. Same goes for the adults who are taking work off. So many adults have to take off work or sometime their work doesn't allow them to so they have to miss their holiday. It would be great if we can get a holiday for are Muslim brothers and sisters so they can relax and enjoy the holiday in peace

Qazi Osama

Self - Software Engineer in Test

Plano, TX

I agree with the designation of Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha as optional holidays.

Laique Rehman

Self

Houston, TX

Texas has over a million residents who celebrate Eid ul Fitr and Eid ul Adha They should be considered optional holidays like we have other optional holidays

Muhammad Imran Tahir

Self / Advisor

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Richmond, TX

It should also allow for not being reprimanded to take down lights during the holidays, this recognition should extend with all benefits as to other regular religious holidays.

Tarek Dannoan

Myself and rest of muslims

Katy, TX

As a practicing Muslim and the many Muslims in Texas I would like to raise my voice about Eid ul Fitr and Eid ul Adha as yearly holidays

Sahar Ali

Self

Austin, TX

Eid is to Pakistani Muslim Americans what Christmas is to Christians in the US and around the globe. They are the biggest celebrations on the Islamic calendar. Our family and our community would like it to be a holiday so we can celebrate it as it should be celebrated. I hope Texas and the US will recognize it's importance for us by designating it as optional holidays.

Sarah Boudreaux

Self, archaeologist

Cypress, TX

Eid needs to be included on the state holiday list

Hawama Sattar

Self

Austin, TX

Eid should be made an optional holiday

Syed Jilani, Pharmacist

Self

Sugarland, TX

Please recognize Muslims

Syed Ali, Retired Teacher

Self/ Retired Teacher

Sugarland, TX

National Holiday for Muslim religious Holidays ( Eid Ul Fitr and Eid Ul Adah)

Rahat Ali, Retired Teacher

Self/ retired teacher

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Sugarland, TX

Declare National Holidays for Muslim Religious Holiday( Eid Ul Fitr and Eid Ul Adah

Zeeshan Ishaq

Self

Sugar Land, TX

I really appreciate this bill and I know hundreds and thousands of Texans feel the same.

Thank you so much!

Regards,  
Zeeshan

Malik Khalid

Self

Sugarland, TX

We all want to be home and celebrate not just with our own families but even with our non Muslim neighbors just like we do it on the day of thanksgiving and on Christmas Day. We want to feel the environment of an actual holiday around us  
Please make it happen

Anwaar Huk  
Self accountant  
Houston, TX

With a large Muslim community in the State of Texas, this bill is a huge step in ensuring that our state is inclusive and equitable for all people regardless of race, ethnicity, religion, and gender.

Anise Huk  
Self/sales  
Houston, TX

I totally support this bill as it is very inconvenient to observe the celebrations when you have to go to work

naseer mohammed  
Self  
Plano, TX

I opt for it.

Shahid Mateen  
Self  
Plano, TX

I support designation of Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha as optional holidays.

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Usman Khan

Self

Katy, TX

They are essential days for Muslims

Abdurrahman Patel, Engineer

Self

Katy, TX

I elect for optional state holidays

tashmeem khan, Dr

Self

Austin, TX

We would like to have this approved.

Maheen Baqai

Self

Austin, TX

I fully support Bill HB 1231 to designate holidays on Eid ul Fitr and Eid ul Adha.

Anjum Hanafi

Self; Public Health professional

Austin, TX

Please pass this Bill!! If you are TRULY concerned about inclusion and appreciate all the hard work (IT, medical) done in this community by Muslims, start making them feel more welcome - and this would be a great first step!

Muhammad Naviwala

Self

Richmond, TX

I support this bill and would love to see this approved.