STATE OF NEW YORK

4038

2019-2020 Regular Sessions

IN SENATE

February 26, 2019

Introduced by Sen. THOMAS -- read twice and ordered printed, and when printed to be committed to the Committee on Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to establishing certain school holidays

The People of the State of New York, represented in Senate and Assembly, do enact as follows:

Section 1. The education law is amended by adding a new section 3204-a to read as follows:

§ 3204-a. Cultural school holidays. 1. The following cultural or religious holidays shall be school holidays for any schools or school districts where the board of education or trustees determines such schools or districts have a significant population of students who observe such days: Eid al-Fitr, Eid al-Adha, Diwali, Vaisakhi, Good Friday and Onam.

2. A school district having a population equal to or greater than seven and one-half percent of persons or ethnic groups, identified by the United States census bureau in the most recent decennial United States census, which observe the respective holidays named in subdivision one of this section are hereby authorized and directed to cause all public schools within such district to be closed on such days.

§ 2. Section 3604 of the education law is amended by adding a new subdivision 7-c to read as follows:

7-c. Notwithstanding any other provision of law, for purposes of any calculation under subdivision seven or eight of this section, the commissioner shall disregard any reduction resulting from observance of Eid al-Fitr, Eid al-Adha, Diwali, Vaisakhi, Good Friday and Onam and, if necessary, such observed holidays shall be calculated as session days.

§ 3. This act shall take effect on the first of July next succeeding the date on which it shall have become a law.

EXPLANATION--Matter in *italics* (underscored) is new; matter in brackets [-] is old law to be omitted.

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