STATE OF NEW YORK

628

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 10, 2023

Introduced by M. of A. RAJKUMAR -- read once and referred to the Committee on Education

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to certain school holidays; and to repeal certain provisions of such law relating thereto

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

Section 1. Legislative intent. The legislature hereby finds that the festival of Diwali is celebrated by a growing number of Hindu, Buddhist, Jain and Sikh residents, including Native New Yorkers and residents of the city of New York hailing from several countries including India, Bangladesh, Pakistan, Nepal, Myanmar, Bhutan, Guyana, Trinidad and Tobago and Sri Lanka. In recognition of the importance of this festival to these residents, it is the legislature's intent that this act allows Diwali to be designated as a school holiday in the city school district of the city of New York while continuing to allow the district to ensure that schools are in session for 180 days.

§ 2. Section 2586 of the education law is REPEALED.

§ 3. Subdivision 2-a of section 3635 of the education law, as amended by chapter 424 of the laws of 2005, is amended to read as follows:

2-a. The superintendent of each city school district, in a city having a population in excess of one million, shall prepare a public school calendar and shall notify officials of nonpublic schools to which transportation has been requested not later than the first day of June in each year, of the days on which the public schools will be in session in the following school year. Such school district which provides transportation to nonpublic schools shall provide such transportation for the same number of days as the public schools are open but shall not provide transportation services for more than one hundred eighty days. Officials of each nonpublic school to which transportation is provided by a city school district of a city having a population in excess of one million may notify such district, not later than the first day of July

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

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of each school year, of a maximum of five days, exclusive of Saturdays, Sundays or legal holidays upon which public schools are required to be closed, on which the public schools are scheduled to be closed, except that in any year in which the first or last day of Passover and Easter Sunday are separated by more than seven days, such officials may notify the district of a maximum of ten days, but such school district will be required to provide for transportation to such nonpublic school provided that such five or ten additional days, whichever is applicable, are limited to the following: the Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday after Labor Day, Rosh Hashanah, Yom Kippur, the week in which public schools are closed for spring recess, December twenty-fourth and the week between Christmas day and New Year's day, **and** the Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday after the observance of Washington's birthday[~~, and, in the boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens only, Anniversary Day as designated in section twenty-five hundred eighty-six of this chapter~~].

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