STATE OF NEW YORK

628--B

2023-2024 Regular Sessions

IN ASSEMBLY

January 10, 2023

Introduced by M. of A. RAJKUMAR, RAGA, ROZIC, TAYLOR, TAPIA, LEE, KIM, BICHOTTE HERMELYN, SEAWRIGHT, BRAUNSTEIN, GONZALEZ-ROJAS, CUNNINGHAM, BURGOS, CRUZ, SHRESTHA, LAVINE, PHEFFER AMATO, BORES, AUBRY, ALVAREZ, GALLAGHER, DILAN, SANTABARBARA, ANDERSON, D. ROSENTHAL, SEPTIMO, JOYNER, HYNDMAN, LUCAS, SAYEGH, WEPRIN, KELLES, GLICK, BEEPHAN, FALL, GIBBS, DE LOS SANTOS, REYES, HEVESI, EPSTEIN, CARROLL, SILLITTI -- read once and referred to the Committee on Education -- committee discharged, bill amended, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee -- again reported from said committee with amendments, ordered reprinted as amended and recommitted to said committee

AN ACT to amend the education law, in relation to establishing Diwali as a school holiday in certain public schools

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 2586-a to read as follows:

§ 2586-a. Diwali as a holiday for students in the public schools of the city of New York. The fifteenth day of the eighth month of the Indian calendar in each year, known as Diwali, is hereby made and declared to be a holiday for students in all the public schools in the city school district in the city of New York and students shall not be required to attend the public schools on such day. If such day falls on a Sunday, students shall not be required to attend public schools on the Monday thereafter.

§ 2. 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

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

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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 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, the Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday after the observance of Washington's birthday**, the fifteenth day of the eighth month of the Indian calendar in each year, known as Diwali**, and, in the boroughs of Brooklyn and Queens only, Anniversary Day as designated in section twenty-five hundred eighty-six of this chapter.

§ 3. This act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.