

SENATE BILL REPORT

SHB 1617

As of February 10, 2022

Title: An act relating to aligning state and school holidays.

Brief Description: Aligning state and school holidays.

Sponsors: House Committee on State Government & Tribal Relations (originally sponsored by Representatives Morgan, Leavitt, Johnson, J., Ramel, Callan, Davis, Taylor, Santos, Simmons, Riccelli, Ormsby and Harris-Talley).

Brief History: Passed House: 2/2/22, 88-8.

Committee Activity: Early Learning & K-12 Education: 2/16/22.

Brief Summary of Bill

- Specifies that all state legal holidays are also school holidays on which school may not be taught.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON EARLY LEARNING & K-12 EDUCATION

Staff: Alexandra Fairfortune (786-7416)

Background: State Legal Holidays. Washington recognizes 11 specific days as state legal holidays: New Year's Day; Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; Presidents' Day; Memorial Day; Juneteenth; Independence Day; Labor Day; Veterans' Day; Thanksgiving Day; Native American Heritage Day; and Christmas Day.

School Holidays. Washington recognizes ten specific days as school holidays on which school may not be taught: New Year's Day; Martin Luther King, Jr. Day; Presidents' Day; Memorial Day; Independence Day; Labor Day; Veterans' Day; Thanksgiving Day; Native American Heritage Day; and Christmas Day.

Juneteenth, which was declared a state legal holiday in 2021, is the only state legal holiday

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that is not included in the enumerated list of school holidays.

Summary of Bill: All state legal holidays are also school holidays on which school may not be taught. The list of specific school holidays is removed.

Appropriation: None.

Fiscal Note: Available.

Creates Committee/Commission/Task Force that includes Legislative members: No.

Effective Date: The bill takes effect on July 1, 2022.