

Date of Hearing: May 2, 2018

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION

Adam Gray, Chair

AB 2969 (Low) – As Introduced February 16, 2018

SUBJECT: LGBT Pride Month

SUMMARY: This bill requires the Governor to annually proclaim the Month of June as “LGBT Pride Month”.

EXISTING LAW:

1) Requires the Governor to Proclaim the following days or months each year as follows:

- a) September 28 as “Cabrillo Day.”
- b) January 15 as “Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Day.”
- c) March 7 as “Arbor Day.”
- d) February 19 as “A Day of Remembrance: Japanese American Evacuation.”
- e) Fourth Friday in September as “Native American Day.”
- f) First Sunday in October as “Stepparents Day.”
- g) April 21 as “John Muir Day.”
- h) March 30 as “Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day.”
- i) December 7 as “Pearl Harbor Day.”
- j) March 31 as “Cesar Chavez Day.”
- k) Month of February as “Black History Month.”
- l) Third Saturday in June as “Juneteenth National Freedom Day: A Day of Observance.”
- m) April 24 as “California Day of Remembrance of the Armenian Genocide.”
- n) May 22 as “Harvey Milk Day.”
- o) January 30 as “Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution.”
- p) February 6 as “Ronald Reagan Day.”
- q) January 23 as “Ed Roberts Day.”
- r) October 25 as “Larry Itliong Day.”
- s) First Friday in May as “Space Day”
- t) March 20, or the following day, as “Nowrūz Day”.

FISCAL EFFECT: This bill is keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

COMMENTS:

Purpose of the bill: According to the author: “California has the largest LGBT population of any state in the nation. The California Legislature established the first and largest Legislative LGBT Caucus. California is home to over forty LGBT Pride celebrations. Pride Month is incredibly important to the LGBT community and I stand with the rest of the LGBT Caucus members to see that Pride Month becomes part of California history and is recognized every year in June.”

Background: The month of June is historically significant for the LGBT community. The Stonewall Riots occurred in New York in June 1969 to protest police targeting of the city’s

LGBT population. These riots, and the swift political organization that followed, are widely considered to be the commencement of the modern LGBT civil rights movement.

In 1970, the first Pride parade was held in New York City on the first anniversary of the Stonewall Riots. Since, Pride celebrations have sprung up in cities around the world. These gatherings encourage the community to celebrate accomplishments, bring visibility to the LGBT population, decrease the mystery for those who retain feelings of homophobia, provide an opportunity for LGBT individuals to feel less alone in an oppressive and dismissive world, and establish the LGBT population as a vibrant and vital part of its respective community.

The California Legislative LGBT Caucus was established in 2002. Its role is to present a forum for the California Legislature to discuss issues that affect LGBT Californians and to further the goal of equality and justice for all people. The formation of the LGBT Caucus made California the first state in the country to recognize an official caucus of openly-LGBT state legislators. Historically the LGBT Caucus Chair introduces a resolution each June during a formal ceremony to declare June as Pride month. This bill will codify in statute every June as LGBT Pride Month.

As stated above, California has the largest LGBT population of any state in the union, and the state is home to over forty LGBT Pride celebrations each year. While President Bill Clinton first recognized Pride month at the federal level in 1999, California has yet to formally declare June as Pride month in statute.

Prior/Related Legislation: AB 88 (Nazarian), Chapter 30, Statutes of 2017. Requires Governor March 20, or the following day as Nowrūz Day.

AB 7 (Bonta), Chapter 29, Statutes of 2015. Requires the Governor to annually proclaim October 25 as Larry Itliong Day.

AB 1775 (Furutani), Chapter 241, Statutes of 2010. Requires the Governor to annually proclaim January 30 as Fred Korematsu Day of Civil Liberties and the Constitution.

SB 944 (Runner), Chapter 114, Statutes of 2010. Requires the Governor to annually proclaim February 6 as Ronald Reagan Day.

SB 1256 (Hancock), Chapter 115, 2010. Requires the Governor to annually proclaim January 23 as Ed Roberts Day.

SB 572 (Leno), Chapter 626, Statutes of 2009. Requires the Governor to annually proclaim May 22 as Harvey Milk Day.

AB 717 (Cook), Chapter 158, Statutes of 2009. Requires the Governor to annually proclaim March 30 as Welcome Home Vietnam Veterans Day.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

Equality California

Opposition

None on file

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