

Senate Business and Labor Committee

2/25/2025

Bill: 1st Substitute SB 259 – State Holy Days

Sponsor: Senator Keven J. Stratton

Floor Sponsor: TBD

UASD Position: Tracking

This Bill amends provisions relating to certain days and commemorative periods recognized by the state.

Discussion: Senator Stratton asked Anne Marie Hilton to assist in presenting the Bill. The Bill designates the first Sunday after the first full moon of the Spring Equinox as Easter Sunday, establishing it as a state holiday. Lines 59-60 provide personal leave days, allowing employees to observe a state holy day or any other religious day of their choice. Line 193 introduces a new category of holidays called "state holy days" which are distinct from legal holidays and include commemorative days and state holidays.

Senator Ipson requested clarification on how a holy day would be observed. The sponsor reiterated that holy days are not equivalent to holidays. Rather, they provide individuals the opportunity to take leave for religious observance if they choose. Senator Musselman referred to lines 60-61 and inquired about the language regarding the recognition of holy days. The sponsor explained that the wording is intentionally broad, ensuring inclusivity so that any religious holy day can be observed.

Ms. Hilton expressed support for recognizing Good Friday as an observable holiday, while also allowing individuals of other faiths to take leave on a significant religious day of their choosing. The Worldwide Organization of Women and the Eagle Forum voiced support for the Bill.

Yeas: 5

Nays: 0

N/V: 3

Outcome: 1st Substitute SB 259 passed out of the Committee with a favorable recommendation.
