



SB 1394 (Gonzalez) Farmworkers Day

SUMMARY

SB 1394 redesignates the Farmworkers Day holiday from March 31 to August 6.

EXISTING LAW

Current law establishes March 31 as a state holiday to be known as Farmworkers Day. That designation was adopted earlier this year through AB 2156 (Rivas & Limon), Chapter 7, Statutes of 2026. Specifically, AB 2156 renamed the existing March 31 holiday from Cesar Chavez Day to Farmworkers Day.

State law currently recognizes 15 state holidays including Juneteenth, Memorial Day and Veterans Day.

BACKGROUND/PROBLEM

In March of 2026, the Legislature renamed Cesar Chavez Day as Farmworkers Day. Due to time constraints and continuity, the holiday remained on March 31, while consideration of a different date was deferred. This bill revisits that issue by establishing a date that more appropriately recognizes and celebrates California's farmworkers.

SOLUTION

SB 1394 seeks to change Farmworkers Day from March 31 to August 6. This date corresponds to the National Farmworkers Appreciation Day, which was officially designated by U.S. President Bill Clinton in 1994.

Designating Farmworkers Day on a date already recognized nationally to honor farmworkers is a fitting way to celebrate the thousands of essential workers who sustain California's agricultural industry. It recognizes their indispensable contributions, celebrates their resilience and sacrifice, and reminds us of the continuing importance of ensuring dignity, safety and fairness for those who work in our fields. As noted in the Governor's Proclamation declaring Farmworkers Day this year, "this state is home to over one-third of all farmworkers in the United States – and they feed the nation: as the largest agricultural state, California produces one-third of nation's vegetables, and nearly two-thirds of its fruits and nuts. We are the fourth largest economy in the world because farmworkers make it possible."

Though only eight states recognized Cesar Chavez Day in some form, most either repealed the governing statute or renamed the holiday as Farmworkers Day.

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