

**SUBJECT:** Legislative designation of commemorative days, weeks, and months

**COMMITTEE:** Culture, Recreation and Tourism — favorable, without amendment

**VOTE:** 8 ayes — Homer, D. Howard, T. King, Kleinschmidt, Kuempel, McCall, Phillips, Thibaut

1 present not voting — Dukes

0 nays

**WITNESSES:** None

**BACKGROUND:** Government Code, ch. 391, governs the designation of state symbols and place designations made by the Legislature by resolution approved by each house of the legislature.

**DIGEST:** HB 4767 would amend Government Code, ch. 391 to add days, weeks, or months to the designations made by the Legislature by resolution. A “date designation” would be a special observance authorized by the Legislature that annually recognized and honored a culturally or historically significant day, week, or month in the state.

The Legislature would have to be presented with information related to the historical or cultural significance of the day, week, or month for recognition before it could designate it. The Legislature could assign more than one designation to a day, week, or month.

The designation would expire on the 10th anniversary of the date the Legislature adopted the resolution but could be re-designated at any time.

A resolution would have to be referred to and reported by the appropriate committee in each house in the same manner provided for bills.

The changes made to this chapter would not affect designations made before September 1, 2009.

The bill would take immediate effect if finally passed by a two-thirds record vote of the membership of each house. Otherwise, it would take effect September 1, 2009.

**SUPPORTERS  
SAY:**

HB 4767 would help ensure that historically or culturally significant events could be honored for at least 10 years. Current law provides no guidelines for how a resolution may designate days, weeks, or months to observe a historically or culturally significant date. As a result, some resolutions have not had the long-standing impact that legislators intended. Members of the Legislature have had to re-designate the same date session after session to assure that the date was officially recognized.

**OPPONENTS  
SAY:**

No apparent opposition