

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 7, 2015
AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JANUARY 28, 2015
CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2015–16 REGULAR SESSION

ASSEMBLY BILL

No. 7

Introduced by Assembly Member Bonta
(Principal coauthors: Assembly Members Alejo and Eggman)
(Coauthors: Assembly Members Chiu, Gomez, *McCarty*, Medina,
Nazarian, Rendon, and Williams)

December 1, 2014

An act to add Section 37222.18 to the Education Code, and to add Section 6725 to the Government Code, relating to public schools.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

AB 7, as amended, Bonta. Public schools: Larry Itliong Day.

Existing law requires the Governor to proclaim certain days each year for specified reasons. Existing law also designates particular days each year as having special significance in public schools and educational institutions and encourages those entities to conduct suitable commemorative exercises on those dates.

This bill would require the Governor to annually proclaim October 25 as Larry Itliong Day, would designate that date of each year as having special significance in public schools and educational institutions, and would encourage those entities to observe that date by conducting exercises remembering the life of Larry Itliong and the contributions he made to the state.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: no.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. The Legislature finds and declares all of the
2 following:

3 (a) Larry Itliong was a native of the Philippines and was born
4 on October 25, 1913, in San Nicolas, Pangasinan.

5 (b) ~~At the young age of 15,~~ *15 years of age* with only a sixth
6 grade education, Larry Itliong decided to seek out the land of “milk
7 and honey” in order to pursue his ~~studies~~ *studies*, and moved to
8 the United States of America in 1929. As a result of the Great
9 Depression, Larry Itliong was forced to work on the railroads and
10 then as a migrant farmworker traveling through Montana, South
11 Dakota, Washington, and finally California. During that time,
12 Larry Itliong learned of the plight suffered by Filipinos and other
13 immigrants working as farm laborers.

14 (c) Larry Itliong was a prominent leader in one of the greatest
15 social justice movements in the United States of America: the
16 American farm labor movement. He organized a group of 1,500
17 Filipinos to strike against the grape growers of Delano, California,
18 and continued on that strike for eight days while suffering through
19 violence imposed by the growers’ hired hands and the ~~sheriff~~
20 ~~department~~ *sheriff’s department*, and being thrown out of the labor
21 camp.

22 (d) However, Larry Itliong remained tenacious and resilient,
23 calling upon César Chávez and his followers to join forces with
24 the Filipinos and strike together. Due partly as a result of Larry
25 Itliong’s ~~persuasions,~~ *persuasiveness*, the two groups ~~combined~~
26 *combined*, establishing the United Farm Workers of ~~America,~~
27 *America Organizing Committee of the AFL-CIO, which led to the*
28 *United Farm Workers of America*, one of the greatest unions in
29 the history of the nation. The unification of farm labor workers of
30 different ethnicities was unprecedented at that time, setting an
31 example for future generations of workers and organizers and
32 proving to be one of the reasons for the success of the movement.

33 (e) Larry Itliong moved on to become the President of the
34 Filipino American Political ~~Alliance,~~ *Association*, the first national
35 political Filipino American organization and a crucial alliance
36 between Filipino ~~professional~~ *professionals* and laborers that grew
37 out of the Delano Grape Strike.

1 (f) Larry Itliong was also instrumental in the founding of the
2 Pablo Agbayani Village, a retirement home built by volunteers for
3 retired Filipino Manongs who no longer had families and needed
4 a place to call home.

5 (g) Larry Itliong passed away in 1977 at the age of 63 leaving
6 behind his wife and seven children.

7 (h) The accomplishments and contributions of Larry Itliong
8 should be properly memorialized within the history and culture of
9 the United States of America. Larry Itliong deserves proper
10 recognition for his numerous sacrifices in the name of justice and
11 the suppression of severely inadequate working conditions.

12 (i) Larry Itliong's legacy has been acknowledged in part in the
13 renaming of a Union City middle school, formerly known as
14 Alvarado Middle School. The middle school has been renamed
15 Itliong-Vera Cruz Middle School in honor of the two labor
16 movement heroes. It is the first school in the United States of
17 America to be named after a Filipino American.

18 SEC. 2. Section 37222.18 is added to the Education Code, to
19 read:

20 37222.18. (a) October 25 of each year is designated and set
21 apart as Larry Itliong Day, a day having special significance
22 pursuant to Section 37222.

23 (b) On Larry Itliong Day, all public schools and educational
24 institutions are encouraged to conduct exercises remembering the
25 life of Larry Itliong, recognizing his accomplishments, and
26 familiarizing pupils with the contributions he made to this state.

27 SEC. 3. Section 6725 is added to the Government Code, to
28 read:

29 6725. The Governor annually shall proclaim October 25 as
30 Larry Itliong Day.