

House Bill 360

By: Representatives Kennard of the 101st, Reeves of the 99th, Romman of the 97th, Parsons of the 44th, Mughal of the 105th, and others

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 4 of Title 1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 holidays and observances, so as to designate the month of July each year as "Muslim
3 American Heritage Month" in Georgia; to provide for legislative findings; to provide for
4 ceremonies and programs; to provide for related matters; to repeal conflicting laws; and for
5 other purposes.

6 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

7 **SECTION 1.**

8 Chapter 4 of Title 1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to holidays and
9 observances, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

10 "1-4-26.

11 (a) The General Assembly hereby finds and determines that:

12 (1) The State of Georgia takes great pride in the varied religious and cultural traditions
13 of the residents of this state and seeks to afford all people in Georgia the opportunity to
14 better understand, recognize, and appreciate the rich histories, cultures, significant
15 contributions, and shared principles of Muslim Americans;

16 (2) Muslim Americans contribute greatly to charitable organizations that help people
17 from all faiths in the United States and around the world by feeding the hungry, providing
18 recuperation efforts following natural disasters, and providing medical assistance, family
19 services, scholastic supplies, and before- and after-school programs;

20 (3) Muslim Americans have contributed to every part of the economy, culture, education,
21 and identity of Georgia and the United States in making advancements in architecture,
22 arts, business, culture, diplomacy, government, law, medicine, the military, national
23 security, religion, and sports;

24 (4) Muslim Americans from Georgia have made significant contributions in the
25 development of vaccines and the global fight against polio, malaria, influenza, hepatitis,
26 cancer, and other diseases; and

27 (5) There is a need for public education, awareness, discourse, and policies that are
28 culturally competent when describing, discussing, or addressing the impacts of being
29 Muslim American.

30 (b) The month of July each year is designated as 'Muslim American Heritage Month' in
31 Georgia.

32 (c) Officials and departments of state, county, and municipal governments, boards of
33 education, elementary and secondary schools, colleges and universities, businesses, and all
34 citizens are encouraged to participate in appropriate ceremonies, programs, and activities
35 that commemorate and honor the contributions of Muslim Americans throughout each July
36 during Muslim American Heritage Month."

37 **SECTION 2.**

38 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.