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Senate Bill 352 (as reported without amendment)
Sponsor: Senator Buzz Thomas
Committee: Local, Urban and State Affairs

CONTENT

The bill would create a new act to declare March 31 each year as Cesar Chavez Day, and to encourage individuals, governmental and educational institutions, and community organizations "to pause on Cesar Chavez day and reflect upon the courage and sacrifice of a man to whom Robert Kennedy once referred as 'one of the heroic figures of our time'."

The bill contains the following statement:

The legislature recognizes the fundamental contribution that Cesar Chavez made to this nation by organizing farm workers to campaign for safe and fair working conditions, reasonable wages, decent housing, and the outlawing of child labor. Cesar Chavez began working in the fields of Arizona and California at the age of 10. Profoundly influenced by these humble beginnings, Chavez embraced the nonviolent principles of Mohandas Gandhi and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., to crusade against racial and economic discrimination, coordinate voter registration drives, and found the united farm workers of America. In 1994, Chavez was posthumously awarded the presidential medal of freedom, the highest honor given to civilians by the United States government.

Legislative Analyst: George Towne

FISCAL IMPACT

The bill would have no fiscal impact on State or local government.

Date Completed: 5-19-03

Fiscal Analyst: Bill Bowerman