



Executive Action Sheet for Senate Legislation

Senate Bill 329-

Resolution 329-

I, Meghana Boojala, President of the Student Assembly of William & Mary do hereby:

Approve

Veto

The Student Assembly Senate Legislation:

President, 329th Student Assembly (21-22)

DATE:

329th Student Assembly
Senate Bill 329-054

A Bill

To ensure that students will be fed during Ramadan

The Funding Iftar Act

An Act of the 329th Student Assembly of William & Mary,

Sponsored by Senator Maheen Saeed ('23) and Senator Hashir Aqeel ('25)

Supported by Shule Bakir & Sheza Baig (Co-Presidents of MSA), Zyannah Mallick (Vice President of MSA), Abdelrahman Osman (Treasurer of MSA), Samira Rahman (Public Relations Chair of MSA), Class President Yannie Chang ('25), Senator Sean Nguyen ('25), Senator Matthew Hwang ('25), Senator Regina Chaillo ('25), Senator Salaar Khan ('24)

WHEREAS, Ramadan is the ninth month of the Islamic calendar, and for Muslims all around the world, it is a month of fasting, prayer, reflection, and community;

WHEREAS, During Ramadan, fasting from dawn to sunset is obligatory for all adult Muslims who are not ill, traveling, breastfeeding, or menstruating;

WHEREAS, Ramadan is the foremost opportunity annually for bonding within the larger-Islamic community on campus;

WHEREAS, Student Assembly is committed to the expression of unique cultures and religions here on campus;

WHEREAS, The nightly feast that breaks the fast is called Iftar;

WHEREAS, Iftar times for Ramadan in 2022 will consistently be after 7:30 p.m.;

WHEREAS, The dining halls will be closing at 8:00 p.m. for the remainder of the semester, not allocating enough time for fasting students to break their fasts, pray, and finish their meals;

WHEREAS, Dining Services and CSD (Center for Student Diversity) provide to go options for Iftar and Suhoor if students need more food until 9:00 pm;

WHEREAS, Despite the options that exist through Dining Services many many are not explicitly Halal/most Muslim students find them inadequate;

WHEREAS, "Food expenses for events and receptions may not be full meals; for any events where food is funded";

WHEREAS; The breaking of the fast is the cultural event not the food;

WHEREAS, If students are still hungry they will be directed to the various dining hall resources including but not exclusive to frozen Halal meals at Tribe Market, frozen meals from Student Exchange, or Marketplace to go options;

WHEREAS, Various other academic institutions are providing their students with food accommodations for the the month of Ramadan:

- University of Maryland
 - <https://dining.umd.edu/updates>
- University of Maryland, Baltimore County
 - <https://umbconnect.umaryland.edu/event/2080779>
- George Washington University
 - <https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/16Rn1EfMxUPXR7Zc-gmjfWlcyerbTH9ED7OS0TAzur9k/edit#gid=0>
- University of Virginia
 - <https://multicultural.virginia.edu/resources-muslim-students>

WHEREAS, Unclear labeling of foods with regards to their Halal status leaves students unsure about whether it is permissible to break their fasts with certain dining hall food options;

Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the Student Assembly of William & Mary:

1. Allocates \$11,000 from the Student Assembly Reserves to pay for
 - a. 20 [Iftar meals](#) for 100 people at a cost of \$5.00 per person (\$10,000)
 - b. Cultural drinks/water/milk costs, dates, utensils, plates, and napkins at \$62.50 per Iftar meal and \$0.63 per person (\$1000)
 - i. 3 x [Rooh Afza Traditional Drink](#) (\$32.67)
 - ii. 6 boxes of [Dates](#) (\$134.94)
 - iii. 32 [Milk Jug Cost](#) (\$117.44)
 - iv. 20 [Water Jug Cost](#) (\$52.64)
 - v. 32 [Mango Nectar Jug Cost](#) (\$103.38)
 - vi. Plates

- vii. Cups
- viii. Utensils
- ix. Napkins

2. Charges the *Department of Diversity Initiatives* in the 330th session to investigate the Halal certification of supposedly Halal meat products.
3. Stipulates that all unused funds will return to the Student Assembly Reserves.
4. Charges the *Undersecretary of Religious Affairs*, in the 330th session to collaborate with MSA, CSD (Center for Student Diversity), Dining Services, University Dietician, and the Dean of Students to work on expanding Halal options on campus, including Iftars.