

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

No. 57

STATE OF NEW JERSEY

218th LEGISLATURE

INTRODUCED FEBRUARY 22, 2018

Sponsored by:

Senator STEPHEN M. SWEENEY

District 3 (Cumberland, Gloucester and Salem)

Senator PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.

District 18 (Middlesex)

Senator THOMAS H. KEAN, JR.

District 21 (Morris, Somerset and Union)

Assemblyman LOUIS D. GREENWALD

District 6 (Burlington and Camden)

Assemblyman RAJ MUKHERJI

District 33 (Hudson)

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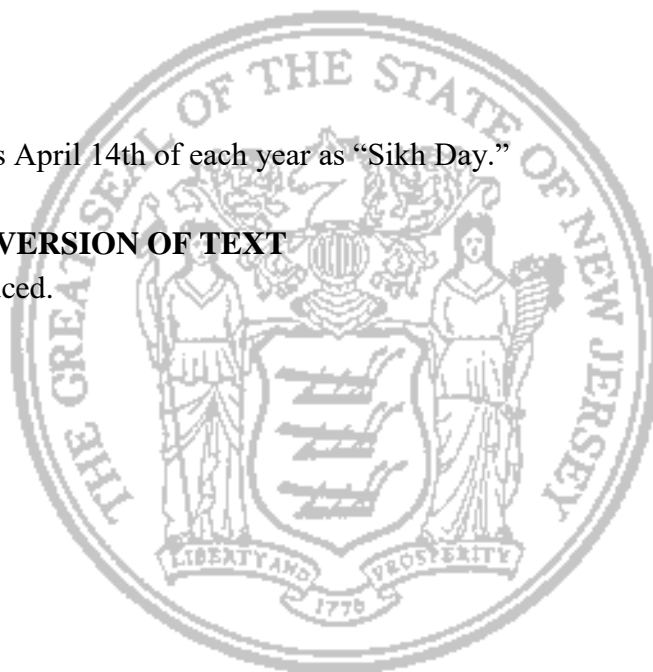
Senators Gopal, Gordon, Greenstein, Singleton, Assemblywomen Pinkin and Downey

SYNOPSIS

Designates April 14th of each year as "Sikh Day."

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

As introduced.



(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 3/26/2019)

1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating April 14th of each year as “Sikh
2 Day.”

3
4 **WHEREAS**, The cultural and intellectual diversity of the State of New
5 Jersey is a source of strength and inspiration for its people; and

6 **WHEREAS**, The Sikh community continues to play an integral, though
7 often overlooked, role in strengthening the religious, social, and
8 political fabric of this State; and

9 **WHEREAS**, Sikhism is the world’s fifth largest religion with nearly 30
10 million adherents, roughly 500,000 of whom call the United States
11 home; and

12 **WHEREAS**, Founded by Guru Nanak in the Punjab region of India
13 during the 15th century, the Sikh spiritual tradition is rooted in the
14 belief that every person, regardless of race, gender, sex, or creed, is
15 equal before God; and

16 **WHEREAS**, Believing that every person shares a connection through
17 the oneness of God, the Sikh community emerged as a force for
18 social justice by encouraging female participation in religious
19 services and initiating inter-faith efforts to combat oppression and
20 injustice; and

21 **WHEREAS**, The religion’s central principles of truthful living, service
22 to humanity, and devotion to God also inspire its believers to create
23 inclusive communities where all are respected; and

24 **WHEREAS**, Through leading charitable events and prominent political
25 positions, including the offices of the Attorney General and the
26 Mayor of Hoboken, New Jersey’s Sikh community embodies the
27 sense of public service that underlies this country’s founding
28 principles; and

29 **WHEREAS**, The people of New Jersey feel obliged to honor the Sikh
30 community’s important role in supporting and enriching the social
31 fabric of this State; and

32 **WHEREAS**, Sikhs celebrate Vaisakhi on the first day of the month of
33 Vaisakh in the Sikh calendar, which typically falls on April 13th or
34 14th; and

35 **WHEREAS**, Vaisakhi is a special occasion in which Sikhs remember
36 the founding in 1699 of the Khalsa Panth, a fellowship of devout
37 soldier-saints, which played an important role in shaping the
38 religion’s history and identity; and

39 **WHEREAS**, It is altogether fitting and proper for the people of New
40 Jersey to celebrate the day of Vaisakhi alongside Sikhs throughout
41 the world and to honor the lasting contributions made by the Sikh
42 community in this State; now, therefore,

43
44 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
45 *State of New Jersey:*

46
47 1. The day of April 14th of each year is designated as “Sikh
48 Day” in the State of New Jersey to honor and celebrate the

1 important role played by the Sikh community in strengthening and
2 inspiring the people of this State.

3

4 2. The Governor is respectfully requested to annually issue a
5 proclamation designating the day of April 14th as “Sikh Day” and
6 shall call upon the public officials and citizens of this State to
7 observe the day with appropriate activities and programs.

8

9 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.

10

11

12 STATEMENT

13

14 This resolution designates April 14th of every year as “Sikh
15 Day.”

16 Sikhism is the world’s fifth largest religion with nearly 30
17 million adherents, including roughly 500,000 in the Unites States.
18 Founded by the Guru Nanak in the 15th century, the religion is
19 rooted in the belief that every person, regardless of race, gender,
20 sex, or creed, is equal before God. Stemming from this belief, the
21 Sikh community emerged as a positive force for social justice by
22 empowering women and combating oppression and injustice.

23 The religion’s central principles of truthful living, service to
24 humanity, and devotion to God also inspire its believers to create
25 inclusive communities where all are respected. By holding
26 charitable events like the annual “Let’s Share a Meal” in Camden
27 and Jersey City, as well as leading prominent political offices like
28 the Attorney General and Mayor of Hoboken, the Sikh community
29 in New Jersey embodies the sense of public service that underlies
30 this country’s founding principles.

31 The Sikh community celebrates Vaisakhi on the first day of the
32 month of Vaisakh in the Sikh calendar, which usually occurs on
33 April 13th or 14th. Vaisakhi is a special occasion for Sikhs to
34 remember the founding in 1699 of the Khalsa Panth, a fellowship of
35 devout solider-saints, which played an important role in shaping the
36 religion’s history and identity. The people of New Jersey feel
37 obliged to celebrate Vaisakhi alongside Sikhs throughout the world
38 and honor the lasting contributions of the Sikh community within
39 this State.