

SENATE RESOLUTION No. ____

DIGEST OF INTRODUCED RESOLUTION

A SENATE RESOLUTION recognizing and acknowledging the significant contributions that American Sikhs have made across the United States and to the State of Indiana on the occasion of Vaisakhi as "National Sikh Day".

FREEMAN, SANDLIN

_____, read first time and referred to Committee on



SENATE RESOLUTION

MADAM PRESIDENT:

I offer the following resolution and move its adoption:

1 A SENATE RESOLUTION recognizing and
2 acknowledging the significant contributions that American
3 Sikhs have made across the United States and to the State of
4 Indiana on the occasion of Vaisakhi as "National Sikh Day".

5 *Whereas, Sikhism is a monotheistic religion that was*
6 *founded 500 years ago and believes in one omnipresent God;*

7 *Whereas, Guru Nanak was the founder and first guru of*
8 *Sikhs;*

9 *Whereas, Vaisakhi is an annual event celebrated in the*
10 *month of April in the punjab region of India, and American*
11 *Sikhs celebrate Vaisakhi as "National Sikh Day";*

12 *Whereas, Sikhism today has a following of over 20 million*
13 *people worldwide and is currently the fifth largest religion;*

14 *Whereas, Among other things, Sikhism preaches a message*
15 *of devotion, truthful living, equality of mankind, and social*
16 *justice;*

17 *Whereas, Key tenants of Sikhism include living the life of a*



1 *householder, earning an honest living, and avoiding worldly*
2 *temptations and sins;*

3 *Whereas, Sikhs believe that people of different races,*
4 *religions, or sex are all equal in the eyes of God and in the full*
5 *equality of men and women;*

6 *Whereas, There are nearly one million Sikhs living in the*
7 *United States, and an estimated 10,000 Sikhs living in Indiana;*

8 *Whereas, The Sikh people have been living in the United*
9 *States for over 100 years, and in Indiana for over 50 years;*

10 *Whereas, The Sikh place of worship is known as Gurdwara*
11 *Sahib, and there are currently more than 20 Gurdwara Sahibs*
12 *all over Indiana;*

13 *Whereas, A hallmark of Sikh values and tradition is the*
14 *community kitchen, known as Langar. Langar is the term used*
15 *in the Sikh religion for the common kitchen where food is*
16 *served in all Gurdwaras to all the visitors, without distinction*
17 *of faith, religion, or background, for free;*

18 *Whereas, Sikhs are one of the fastest growing business*
19 *communities in Indiana;*

20 *Whereas, Indiana is home to about 3,500 Sikh-owned*
21 *businesses, including gas stations, convenience stores,*
22 *restaurants, and trucking and transportation businesses;*

23 *Whereas, Sikhs in the United States pursue diverse*
24 *professions and walks of life, making rich contributions to the*
25 *economic vibrancy of the United States as farmers, engineers,*
26 *doctors, scientists, and business owners;*

27 *Whereas, Sikhs continue to make strides toward securing*
28 *religious liberty as patriotic members of the United States*
29 *Armed Forces;*



1 *Whereas, Sikhs have served on local, state, and federal*
 2 *levels of government in the United States;*

3 *Whereas, Sikhs provide significant contributions to and*
 4 *continue to serve our country, our state, and our communities;*

5 *Whereas, The faithful service of the Sikh community to this*
 6 *state and the country merits appreciation as an integral thread*
 7 *in the fabric of American plurality; and*

8 *Whereas, It is fitting that the Indiana Senate recognizes and*
 9 *acknowledges the significant contributions that American Sikhs*
 10 *have made across the United States, to the State of Indiana, and*
 11 *to local communities on the great occasion of Vaisakhi as*
 12 *"National Sikh Day": Therefore,*

13 *Be it resolved by the Senate of the*
 14 *General Assembly of the State of Indiana:*

15 SECTION 1. That the Indiana Senate recognizes and
 16 acknowledges the significant contributions that American
 17 Sikhs have made across the United States and to the State of
 18 Indiana on the great occasion of Vaisakhi as "National Sikh
 19 Day".

20 SECTION 2. The Secretary of the Senate is hereby
 21 directed to transmit a copy of this Resolution to Gurinder
 22 Singh Khalsa, founder and chairman of SikhsPAC.

