

---

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

---

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 423 Session of  
2024

---

INTRODUCED BY MUNROE, MALAGARI, KHAN, DONAHUE, GIRAL, SANCHEZ,  
HADDOCK, BRIGGS, FRIEL, CEPEDA-FREYTIZ, T. DAVIS, WAXMAN,  
McANDREW, BRENNAN, KENYATTA AND KINSEY, MAY 6, 2024

---

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, MAY 6, 2024

---

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating August 4, 2024, as "BAPS Day" in Pennsylvania.

2 WHEREAS, Bochasanwasi Akshar Purushottam Swaminarayan Sanstha  
3 ("BAPS") is a worldwide Hindu denomination dedicated to  
4 fostering faith, inspiring service and promoting better living;  
5 and

6 WHEREAS, Today, there are BAPS followers in more than 20  
7 countries in southern and eastern Africa, western Europe,  
8 Australasia, Southeast Asia and North America; and

9 WHEREAS, His Holiness Pramukh Swami Maharaj (1921-2016),  
10 established the first BAPS Hindu temple, also known as a mandir,  
11 in the United States on August 4, 1974, in New York City; and

12 WHEREAS, Over the last 50 years, BAPS in the United States  
13 has become the largest BAPS fellowship outside of India with  
14 more than 100 mandirs; and

15 WHEREAS, The eight BAPS mandirs in Pennsylvania are proud  
16 examples of how houses of worship contribute to the well-being  
17 of their congregants and local communities; and

1       WHEREAS, BAPS members in North America demonstrate its  
2 teachings through an emphasis on the values of family, service,  
3 culture, spirituality and youth development; and

4       WHEREAS, BAPS mandirs offer a welcoming and spiritual space  
5 for thousands of families, as well as worship, fellowship,  
6 communal meals, education and activities for young and old,  
7 creating a true home for the faithful; and

8       WHEREAS, Following in the example of His Holiness Mahant  
9 Swami Maharaj, the volunteers of BAPS have, time and again,  
10 answered the call to serve, humbly, selflessly and  
11 inspirationally; and

12       WHEREAS, BAPS members believe that "In the joy of others lies  
13 our own," and strive to perform acts that celebrate the divinity  
14 in all beings; and

15       WHEREAS, BAPS mandirs bring His Holiness Pramukh Swami  
16 Maharaj's words "In the joy of others lies our own," to life  
17 through support for those in need in a variety of community  
18 efforts, such as health fairs, food drives and disaster relief  
19 work; and

20       WHEREAS, In commitment to the Hindu tradition of celebrating  
21 unity in diversity, BAPS members also invite visitors to all  
22 BAPS mandirs by regularly hosting open houses and similar  
23 events; and

24       WHEREAS, Approximately 2.5 million members and visitors seek  
25 peace and spiritual solace at a BAPS mandir every year; and

26       WHEREAS, BAPS mandirs add to the rich tapestry of diversity  
27 that makes America and this Commonwealth beautiful places to  
28 call home; and

29       WHEREAS, The fifth BAPS spiritual successor, Pramukh Swami  
30 Maharaj, believed that peaceful coexistence requires dialogue

1 among leaders of other cultures, religions and civic bodies; and

2 WHEREAS, BAPS mandirs have a storied history of helping  
3 immigrants to the United States retain their connection to their  
4 faith but fully embrace and join in American civic life; and

5 WHEREAS, In 2000, BAPS was granted General Consultative  
6 Status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council,  
7 giving BAPS a role in formal United Nations deliberations; and

8 WHEREAS, Through cultural events and educational programs,  
9 BAPS cultivates a sense of identity and pride by sharing rich  
10 Hindu artistic, musical, dance, culinary and festival traditions  
11 with its communities; and

12 WHEREAS, BAPS mandirs also offer youth activities that  
13 encourage and mold young people to live lives of integrity and  
14 character that reflect our highest ideals; and

15 WHEREAS, 2024 marks 50 years of service and faith in the  
16 United States for BAPS; and

17 WHEREAS, The BAPS mandirs in Pennsylvania hope to serve their  
18 congregants and local communities with even greater zeal in the  
19 next 50 years and beyond; therefore be it

20 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate August  
21 4, 2024, as "BAPS Day" in Pennsylvania.