
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 45 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY KEARNEY, FARNESE, BROWNE, COSTA, SANTARSIERO,
MUTH, HUGHES, KILLION AND SCHWANK, MARCH 20, 2019

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, MARCH 20, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating April 2019 as "Sikh Heritage Month" in Pennsylvania.

2 WHEREAS, Sikhism is one of the most widely practiced
3 religions in the world; and

4 WHEREAS, Today there are approximately 25 million Sikhs
5 worldwide and more than 500,000 Sikhs in the United States; and

6 WHEREAS, Sikhs have been living in the United States for more
7 than 100 years; and

8 WHEREAS, During the early 20th century, thousands of Sikhs
9 worked on farms, in lumber mills and mines and on the Oregon
10 Pacific and Eastern Railroad; and

11 WHEREAS, Sikhs pursue diverse professions and make rich
12 contributions to the social, cultural and economic vibrancy of
13 the United States; and

14 WHEREAS, Sikhs are members of the United States Armed Forces
15 and contribute significantly to agriculture, information
16 technology, small businesses, the hotel industry, trucking,
17 medicine and technology; and

1 WHEREAS, Sikhs have distinguished themselves by fostering
2 respect among all people through faith and service; and

3 WHEREAS, This year marks the 550th birth year of the founder
4 of Sikhism, Guru Nanak, and is celebrated as Guru Nanak Prakash
5 Utsav; and

6 WHEREAS, Sikhs celebrate four of the main festivals as
7 Gurupurab; and

8 WHEREAS, This collective celebration is one of the most
9 sacred festivals on the Sikh calendar and marks the important
10 incidents in the lives of the Gurus; and

11 WHEREAS, Vaisakhi, also known as Baisakhi, is one of the most
12 historically significant days of the year, marking the start a
13 new year for Sikhs and is celebrated on April 14, 2019; and

14 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth is committed to educating citizens
15 about the world's religions, the value of religious diversity,
16 tolerance grounded in First Amendment principles, a culture of
17 mutual understanding and the diminution of violence; and

18 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth seeks to further the diversity of
19 its communities and afford all residents the opportunity to
20 better understand, recognize and appreciate the rich history and
21 shared experiences of Sikhs; therefore be it

22 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate April 2019 as "Sikh
23 Heritage Month" in Pennsylvania.