
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 157 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY ZABEL, APRIL 5, 2019

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
APRIL 5, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of April 2019 as "Sikh Heritage Month" in
2 Pennsylvania.

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

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

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

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

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

15 WHEREAS, Sikhs are members of the United States Armed Forces
16 and contribute significantly to agriculture, information
17 technology, small businesses, the hotel industry, trucking,
18 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 House of Representatives designate the
23 month of April 2019 as "Sikh Heritage Month" in Pennsylvania.