
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 199 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY DiGIROLAMO AND QUINN, APRIL 8, 2019

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
APRIL 8, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating April 14, 2019, as "Sikh Day" in Pennsylvania.

2 WHEREAS, The cultural and intellectual diversity of the
3 Commonwealth is a source of strength and inspiration for its
4 people; and

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

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

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

15 WHEREAS, The basic principles of the Sikh religion include
16 social, gender and human equality, along with sharing and caring
17 for others and defending the weak; and

1 WHEREAS, Believing that every person shares a connection
2 through the oneness of God, the Sikh community emerged as a
3 force for social justice by encouraging female participation in
4 religious services and initiating interfaith efforts to combat
5 oppression and injustice; and

6 WHEREAS, The religion's central principles of truthful
7 living, service to humanity, and devotion to God also inspire
8 its believers to create inclusive communities where all are
9 respected; and

10 WHEREAS, Through leading charitable events, the Sikh
11 community embodies the sense of public service that underlies
12 this country's founding principles; and

13 WHEREAS, The people of Pennsylvania honor the Sikh
14 community's important role in supporting and enriching the
15 social fabric of this Commonwealth; and

16 WHEREAS, Sikhs celebrate Vaisakhi on the first day of the
17 month of Vaisakh in the Sikh calendar, which typically falls on
18 April 14th; and

19 WHEREAS, Vaisakhi is a special occasion in which Sikhs
20 remember the founding in 1699 of the Khalsa Panth, a fellowship
21 of devout saint soldiers, which played an important role in
22 shaping the religion's history and identity; and

23 WHEREAS, It is fitting and proper for the people of
24 Pennsylvania to celebrate the day of Vaisakhi alongside Sikhs
25 throughout the world and to honor the lasting contributions made
26 by the Sikh community in this Commonwealth; therefore be it

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate April
28 14, 2019, as "Sikh Day" in Pennsylvania.