
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1025 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY QUINN, MURT, RYAN, BARRAR, FRANKEL, HOHENSTEIN,
READSHAW, JAMES, McNEILL, RABB, MILLARD, HILL-EVANS,
GALLOWAY, SCHLOSSBERG, THOMAS AND BURNS, SEPTEMBER 29, 2020

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
SEPTEMBER 29, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the cultural, religious and interfaith importance of
2 Shri Guru Granth Sahib Ji as "Living Guru" of Sikhs in
3 promoting peace and declaring Sikhs as a distinct ethnic and
4 religious minority.

5 WHEREAS, The House of Representatives is pleased to join this
6 Commonwealth's Sikh community in recognizing the importance of
7 Shri Guru Granth Sahib Ji as their faith's "Living Guru" in the
8 spirit of peace and the declaration of Sikhs as a distinct
9 ethnic and religious minority; and

10 WHEREAS, When Guru Gobind Singh Ji, the 10th Sikh Guru, left
11 the world in the early 1700s, he encouraged future generations
12 to eschew idol worship and acknowledge the Shri Guru Granth
13 Sahib Ji, the principal scripture of Sikhism, as the living and
14 11th Guru of the Sikh religion; and

15 WHEREAS, A historic judgment delivered by the Supreme Court
16 of India on March 29, 2000, supported that great notion by
17 declaring those sacred writings as a juristic person, further
18 justifying Guru Gobind Singh Ji's declaration of Shri Guru

1 Granth Sahib Ji as the "Living Guru"; and

2 WHEREAS, The United Nations Office of the High Commissioner
3 for Human Rights has recognized Sikh Holy Scripture, Shri Guru
4 Granth Sahib Ji, as a scripture meant to promote the interfaith
5 and inter-religious harmony, peace and human rights; and

6 WHEREAS, As the world's fifth largest religion with more than
7 25 million followers, Sikhism's proud tradition began with its
8 founding in the 15th century by Guru Nanak, and its faithful
9 members practice the universal principals of truthful living,
10 service to humanity and devotion to a higher power; and

11 WHEREAS, Since arriving to America's shores in the late
12 1800s, Sikhs have made invaluable contributions to the growth
13 and prosperity of this Commonwealth while enriching America's
14 culture, history and economy; and

15 WHEREAS, The strength and success of this Commonwealth, the
16 vitality of its communities and the effectiveness of our
17 American society depend, in great measure, upon our various
18 ethnic and religious groups, as exemplified by the Sikh
19 community who share with us their rich and unique heritage; and

20 WHEREAS, Although Sikhs have made immense contributions
21 throughout history, they have long faced oppression and
22 discrimination throughout the rest of the world; and

23 WHEREAS, According to the Sikh religion and history, Sikhs
24 share a unique set of beliefs, practices, and ancestry, since
25 its foundation that are altogether different from other existing
26 religions; and

27 WHEREAS, Gurumukhi, the Sikh mother language, is endangered
28 in most parts of the world; and

29 WHEREAS, The Commonwealth seeks to further the diversity of
30 its community and afford all residents the opportunity to better

1 understand, recognize and appreciate the rich history and shared
2 experiences of Sikhs and enforce laws for access to equal
3 opportunity of humans irrespective of their caste, creed, color
4 and appearance; therefore be it

5 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
6 cultural, religious and interfaith importance of Shri Guru
7 Granth Sahib Ji as "Living Guru" of Sikhs in promoting peace and
8 declare Sikhs as a distinct ethnic and religious minority; and
9 be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
11 importance of Shri Guru Granth Sahib Ji and pay tribute to the
12 meritorious record of service, leadership dedication of this
13 Commonwealth's Sikh residents; and be it further

14 RESOLVED, That the Chief Clerk of the House of
15 Representatives transmit a copy of this resolution to the
16 Governor and the Attorney General.