



SPONSOR: Rep. Baumbach & Rep. Dorsey Walker on behalf of all
Representatives & Sen. Townsend on behalf of all
Senators

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
152nd GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 97

PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF APRIL 2024 AS “SIKH AWARENESS AND APPRECIATION MONTH” IN THE
STATE OF DELAWARE.

1 WHEREAS, Delaware and our nation are at once blessed and enriched by the unparalleled diversity of
2 our residents; and

3 WHEREAS, Sikhs have been living in the United States for more than 100 years, and during the early 20th
4 century, thousands of Sikh Americans worked on farms, in mines, in lumber mills, and on the Oregon, Pacific & Eastern
5 Railroad; and

6 WHEREAS, Sikhism is the fifth largest religion in the world, and today there are more than 30 million Sikhs
7 worldwide and an estimated 500,000 Sikh Americans; and

8 WHEREAS, Sikhs, who originated in Punjab, India, began residing in Delaware in the 1970s; and

9 WHEREAS, the first Sikh temple (Gurdwara) in Delaware was established in 1990 in Elsmere; and

10 WHEREAS, Vaisakhi is one of the most historically significant days of the year for Sikhs and will be celebrated
11 on April 13, 2024, making April a culturally and religiously prominent month for Sikhs; and

12 WHEREAS, the year 2024 is the 555th birthday of the first of 10 gurus and founder of Sikhism, Guru Nanak,
13 which is celebrated by Sikhs in Delaware and worldwide as Guru Nanak's Gurburab and is one of the most important dates
14 in the Sikh calendar; and

15 WHEREAS, the Sikh American community in Delaware has led and participated in many interfaith and charitable
16 endeavors benefiting all Delawareans, with a particular emphasis on helping those who are homeless, those facing food
17 insecurity, veterans, and others in need; and

18 WHEREAS, Sikh Americans have distinguished themselves by fostering respect among all people through faith
19 and service, including by organizing annual interfaith peace walks in Newark; and

20 WHEREAS, the Sikh American community in Delaware has brought positive attention to its members and to all of
21 Delaware by organizing and hosting North America's largest annual intercollegiate Bhangra and Fusion dance competition;
22 and

23 WHEREAS, many industries in Delaware, especially the retail, healthcare, transportation, and information
24 technology industries, have significantly benefited from the contributions of the Sikh community; and

25 WHEREAS, since September 11, 2001, Sikhs have been victims of mistaken identity and racial discrimination
26 because of their beards and turbans and have been subjected to a disproportionately high rate of hate crimes, and Sikh boys
27 suffer bullying at twice the national bullying rate for other boys; and

28 WHEREAS, in 2015, the FBI began collecting data about religiously motivated anti-Sikh hate crimes; and

29 WHEREAS, in a report released last October, anti-Sikh hate crime victimizations were recorded by the FBI as the
30 highest number ever at 198, and Sikhs still remain the second-most targeted group in the nation for religiously-motivated
31 hate crime incidents; and

32 WHEREAS, the faithful service of the Sikh American community to Delaware and the United States merits
33 appreciation as an integral thread in the fabric of American plurality.

34 NOW, THEREFORE:

35 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the 152nd General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the
36 Senate concurring therein, that the month of April 2024 is proclaimed “Sikh Awareness and Appreciation Month” in the
37 State of Delaware.

SYNOPSIS

This House Concurrent Resolution proclaims the month of April 2024 as “Sikh Awareness and Appreciation Month” in the State of Delaware.