



SPONSOR: Sen. Poore & Sen. Hansen & Rep. Viola
Sens. Henry, Hocker, Lavelle, Sokola, Townsend; Reps.
Baumbach, Bolden, Brady, Heffernan, Q. Johnson,
Keeley, Miro, Osienski, Paradee, Potter, B. Short,
M. Smith

DELAWARE STATE SENATE
149th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 58

RECOGNIZING THE GREAT CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE FESTIVAL OF DIWALI.

1 WHEREAS, Diwali is a festival of great significance to Indian Americans and the people of India that is
2 celebrated annually by Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, and Jains throughout the United States and the world; and

3 WHEREAS, there are more than 2,000,000 Hindus, Sikhs, Buddhists, and Jains in the United States; and

4 WHEREAS, the word "Diwali" is a shortened version of the Sanskrit term "Deepavali", which means "a row of
5 lamps;" and

6 WHEREAS, Diwali is a 5 day festival of lights, which is celebrated by lighting small oil lamps and placing them
7 around the home and by praying for health, knowledge, and peace; and

8 WHEREAS, celebrants of Diwali believe that the rows of lamps symbolize the light within the individual that rids
9 the soul of the darkness of ignorance; and

10 WHEREAS, Diwali begins on the last day of the last month in the lunar calendar and is celebrated as a day of
11 thanksgiving and the beginning of the new year for many Hindus; and

12 WHEREAS, for Hindus, Diwali is a celebration of the victory of good over evil; and

13 WHEREAS, for Sikhs, Diwali is feted as the day that the sixth founding Sikh Guru, or revered teacher Guru
14 Hargobind ji, was released from captivity from the ruling Mughal Emperor; and

15 WHEREAS, for Jains, Diwali marks the anniversary of the attainment of moksha or liberation by Mahavira, the
16 last of the Tirthankaras, who were the great teachers of Jain dharma, at the end of his life in 527 B.C.; and

17 WHEREAS, Diwali will begin on November 7, 2018.

18 NOW, THEREFORE:

19 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the 149th General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the House of
20 Representatives concurring therein, that the State of Delaware recognizes the celebration of Diwali; and

21 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State of Delaware acknowledges the international religious and historical
22 importance of the festival of Diwali; and

23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State of Delaware recognizes and appreciates the religious diversity in
24 both India and the United States and throughout the world;

25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State of Delaware affirms the bonds of friendship and cooperation
26 between the United States and India; and

27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State of Delaware extends the warmest wishes to those celebrating Diwali
28 in Delaware, the United States, India, and throughout the world.

SYNOPSIS

This Senate Concurrent Resolution does all of the following:

- (1) Recognizes Diwali as an important festival.
- (2) Recognizes and appreciates religious diversity in India and the United States.
- (3) Supports the friendship and cooperation between the United States and India.
- (4) Acknowledges the onset of Diwali and expresses its warmest wishes to those celebrating Diwali in Delaware, the United States, India, and throughout the world.

Author: Senator Poore