



SPONSOR: Sen. Townsend & Rep. Baumbach
Sens. Bonini, Brown, Ennis, Gay, Hansen, Hocker,
Lawson, Lockman, Lopez, Mantzavinos, S. McBride,
Paradee, Pettyjohn, Pinkney, Poore, Richardson, Sokola,
Sturgeon, Walsh, Wilson

DELAWARE STATE SENATE
151st GENERAL ASSEMBLY

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 11

PROCLAIMING THE MONTH OF APRIL 2021 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 our
2 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 14, 2021, making April a culturally and religiously prominent month for Sikhs; and

12 WHEREAS, the year 2021 is the 552nd 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, especially the retail, healthcare, transportation, and information technology
24 industries, in Delaware have significantly benefitted 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, the faithful service of the Sikh American community to Delaware and the United States merits
29 appreciation as an integral thread in the fabric of American plurality.

30 NOW, THEREFORE:

31 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the 151st General Assembly of the State of Delaware, the House of
32 Representatives concurring therein, that the month of April 2021 is proclaimed “Sikh Awareness and Appreciation Month”
33 in the State of Delaware.

SYNOPSIS

This Senate Concurrent Resolution proclaims the month of April 2021 as “Sikh Awareness and Appreciation Month” in the State of Delaware.

Author: Senator Townsend