

Introduced by Senator Corbett

March 3, 2014

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 93—Relative to California Hindu American Awareness and Appreciation Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

SCR 93, as introduced, Corbett. California Hindu American Awareness and Appreciation Month

This measure would designate the month of October 2014 as California Hindu American Awareness and Appreciation Month. The measure would also recognize and acknowledge the significant contributions made by Californians of Hindu heritage to our state. By adoption of this resolution, the Legislature seeks to increase awareness and understanding about the Hindu American community.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, California and the nation have been influenced by
- 2 the extraordinary cultural, ethnic, linguistic, and religious diversity
- 3 of its residents; and
- 4 WHEREAS, There is an estimated one billion Hindus
- 5 worldwide, and more than 2 million Hindu Americans live across
- 6 the nation; and
- 7 WHEREAS, California is home to the largest Hindu American
- 8 population in the United States; and
- 9 WHEREAS, Hindu Americans in California represent diverse
- 10 ethnic backgrounds, including individuals of Indian, Pakistani,
- 11 Bangladeshi, Malaysian, Indonesian, Afghani, Nepali, Bhutanese,
- 12 Sri Lankan, Fijian, Caribbean, and European descent; and

1 WHEREAS, California and our nation have greatly benefited
2 from Hindu Americans, especially through the Vedanta philosophy,
3 Ayurvedic medicine, classical Indian art, dance, music, meditation,
4 literature, and community service; and

5 WHEREAS, The United States was officially introduced to
6 Hinduism by Swami Vivekananda in 1893 at the World's
7 Parliament of Religions in Chicago, and in 1900 he founded the
8 Vedanta Society in San Francisco, California; and

9 WHEREAS, The first Hindu temple in the United States was
10 built in San Francisco, California, and at the dedication of the
11 temple on January 7, 1906, it was proclaimed to be the "First Hindu
12 Temple in the Whole Western World"; and

13 WHEREAS, There are now over 120 Hindu temples, religious
14 centers, and cultural centers throughout California, and the greater
15 bay area is home to over 40 of those temples and centers; and

16 WHEREAS, Hindu Americans have greatly enriched
17 California's higher education university systems by teaching
18 numerous students, especially in the academic fields of
19 astrophysics, computer science, engineering, law, planetary science,
20 psychology, and neurosciences; and

21 WHEREAS, Hindu Americans share the entrepreneurial spirit
22 of America and contribute to California's economic vitality, having
23 been pioneers and leaders in Silicon Valley and founded several
24 of its early startups; and

25 WHEREAS, Hindu Americans have also contributed to many
26 of California's economic sectors and particularly excelled in the
27 areas of business, information technology, medicine, and science;
28 and

29 WHEREAS, California Hindu temples, organizations, and
30 individuals actively engage in seva, a Sanskrit word for selfless
31 service, towards their fellow human beings through charity, public
32 service, and the provision of free medical and legal services; and

33 WHEREAS, Hindu Americans in cities throughout California
34 celebrate numerous holidays and festivals, such as Diwali, which
35 celebrates the victory of good over evil and knowledge over
36 ignorance; and

37 WHEREAS, Hindu Americans promote the ideals of tolerance,
38 pluralism, and religious freedom, which are inherent to their beliefs
39 and respect the diversity of all faiths; now therefore, be it

1 *Resolved by the Senate of the State of California, the Assembly*
2 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature hereby designates the
3 month of October 2014 as California Hindu American Awareness
4 and Appreciation Month; and be it further

5 *Resolved,* That the Legislature recognizes and acknowledges
6 the significant contributions made by Californians of Hindu
7 heritage to our state, and by adoption of this resolution, seeks to
8 increase awareness and understanding about the Hindu American
9 community; and be it further

10 *Resolved,* That the Secretary of the Senate transmit copies of
11 this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.