

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 181

Introduced by Assembly Member Logue

August 2, 2010

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 181—Relative to California Sikh American Awareness and Appreciation Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 181, as introduced, Logue. California Sikh American Awareness and Appreciation Month.

This measure would designate November 2010 as California Sikh American Awareness and Appreciation Month. It would recognize and acknowledge the significant contributions made by Californians of Sikh heritage to our state and afford all Californians the opportunity to understand, recognize, and appreciate the rich history, shared principles, religion, faith, and role Sikh Americans play in furthering mutual understanding and respect among all peoples.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, California and our nation are at once blessed and
- 2 enriched by the unparalleled diversity of our residents; and
- 3 WHEREAS, Among this unprecedented diversity in California,
- 4 there reside an estimated 200,000 Americans of Sikh origin,
- 5 comprising nearly 40 percent of the nation's estimated Sikh
- 6 population; and
- 7 WHEREAS, Sikh immigrants have resided in California for
- 8 more than a century, with the first Sikh immigrants believed to
- 9 have labored on railroad construction projects; and

1 WHEREAS, The first Sikh temple (Gurdwara) in California
2 was established in Stockton in 1929; and

3 WHEREAS, While Sikh Americans have distinguished
4 themselves in numerous areas of endeavor, they have demonstrated
5 particular success in the areas of agriculture, trucking, and in the
6 creation of small, family-owned businesses; and

7 WHEREAS, It is estimated that in Yuba and Sutter Counties,
8 Sikh American farmers account for as much as 95 percent of peach
9 farming, 60 percent of all prune farming, and 20 percent of all
10 almond and walnut farming; and

11 WHEREAS, It is estimated that in the Bakersfield and Fresno
12 areas of California, fully 20 percent of all table grapes are grown
13 by Sikh American farmers; and

14 WHEREAS, Yuba City, California, boasts the largest population
15 of Sikh and Punjabi Americans in the nation, and in 2009 elected
16 Kashmir Gill as its first Sikh American mayor; and

17 WHEREAS, Dalip Singh Saund was the first Sikh American
18 and Asian American member of the United States Congress; and

19 WHEREAS, Dr. Bhagat Singh Thind struggled and fought for
20 Asian Indians to be allowed to become American citizens; and

21 WHEREAS, Dr. Narinder Singh Kapany of Palo Alto is
22 acknowledged by many to be the father of fiber optics; and

23 WHEREAS, The Sikh and Punjabi American communities of
24 California continue to make important contributions to our state
25 and nation; and

26 WHEREAS, Sikh Americans in Yuba City celebrate the
27 coronation day in Sikh Scripture as Guru Gaddi Divas, also known
28 as the Sikh Parade, on the first Sunday of every November; now,
29 therefore, be it

30 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
31 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby designates the
32 month of November 2010 to be California Sikh American
33 Awareness and Appreciation Month; and be it further

34 *Resolved*, That the Legislature recognizes and acknowledges
35 the significant contributions made by Californians of Sikh heritage
36 to our state, and by adoption of this resolution, seeks to afford all
37 Californians the opportunity to better understand, recognize, and
38 appreciate the rich history and shared principles of Sikh Americans,
39 their monotheistic religion and the tenets of their faith, and the

1 important role that Sikh Americans play in furthering mutual
2 understanding and respect among all peoples; and be it further
3 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
4 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution to the
5 members of the Legislature, members of the California Sikh
6 American community, and other interested persons.

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