

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY MAY 17, 2012

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2011–12 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 97

Introduced by Assembly Member Perea

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Alejo, Allen, Ammiano, Atkins, Beall, Bill Berryhill, Block, Blumenfield, Bonilla, Bradford, Brownley, Buchanan, Butler, Charles Calderon, Campos, Carter, Chesbro, Conway, Cook, Dickinson, Eng, Feuer, Fong, Fuentes, Furutani, Beth Gaines, Galgiani, Garrick, Gatto, Gordon, Gorell, Grove, Hagman, Halderman, Hall, Harkey, Hayashi, Roger Hernández, Hill, Huber, Hueso, Huffman, Jeffries, Jones, Lara, Logue, Ma, Mendoza, Miller, Mitchell, Monning, Morrell, Nestande, Nielsen, Norby, Olsen, Pan, John A. Pérez, V. Manuel Pérez, Portantino, Silva, Smyth, Swanson, Torres, Valadao, Wagner, Wieckowski, and Williams)

February 2, 2012

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 97—Relative to Sikh American Awareness and Appreciation Month.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 97, as amended, Perea. Sikh American Awareness and Appreciation Month.

This measure would designate November 2012 as California Sikh American Awareness and Appreciation Month. It would recognize and acknowledge the significant contributions made by Californians of Sikh heritage to the state and afford all Californians the opportunity to understand, recognize, and appreciate the rich history and shared principles of Sikh Americans.

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 250,000 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 having labored
9 on railroad construction projects, in lumber mills, and in the
10 agricultural heartlands of the Sacramento, San Joaquin, and
11 Imperial valleys; and

12 WHEREAS, The first Sikh temple (Gurdwara) in California
13 was established in Stockton in 1912, and Sikh temples have since
14 been established in communities throughout California, especially
15 in the central valley, with more than a dozen in Fresno alone; and

16 WHEREAS, While Sikh Americans have distinguished
17 themselves in numerous areas of endeavor, they have demonstrated
18 particular success in the areas of agriculture, trucking, medicine,
19 and in the creation of small, family-owned businesses; and

20 WHEREAS, Yuba City boasts the largest population of Sikh
21 and Punjabi Americans in the nation and the central valley boasts
22 the second largest population; and

23 WHEREAS, Representative Dalip Singh Saund of California,
24 born in Amritsar, India, was a lettuce farmer in the Imperial Valley
25 and an elected judge of the Justice Court in the Westmoreland
26 Judicial District before becoming the first Sikh American and
27 Asian American member of the United States Congress, where he
28 served from 1957 to 1963; and

29 WHEREAS, Dr. Bhagat Singh Thind, born in Taragarh, India,
30 was a soldier, scholar, and activist who served in the United States
31 Army during World War I, studied at University of California,
32 Berkeley, and struggled and fought for Asian Indians to be allowed
33 to become American citizens; and

34 WHEREAS, Dr. Narinder Singh Kapany of Palo Alto, born in
35 Moga, India, is an accomplished scientist and inventor who has
36 been awarded over 100 patents, spurring advancements in lasers,
37 biomedical instrumentation, solar energy, and pollution monitoring,
38 and is widely acknowledged to be the father of fiber optics, a
39 technology that has allowed for high-speed, digital communication;
40 and

1 WHEREAS, Sikh Americans have served as mayors of
2 California cities, including David Dhillon in El Centro, Gurpal
3 Samra in Livingston, Amarpreet “Ruby” Dhaliwal in San Joaquin,
4 and Kashmir Singh Gill in Yuba City, and numerous Sikh
5 Americans have served as council members of California cities;
6 and

7 WHEREAS, The Sikh and Punjabi American communities of
8 California continue to make important contributions to our state
9 and nation; and

10 WHEREAS, Sikh Americans throughout California celebrate
11 the coronation day of Sikh Scripture as Guru Gaddi Divas, along
12 with parades in cities across California, the largest being held in
13 Yuba City on the first Sunday of every November followed by the
14 second largest in Selma, California; and

15 WHEREAS, The Sikh Council of Central California,
16 representing a dozen main Sikh temples in the Fresno County area,
17 actively takes part in the Multifaith Exchange and Interfaith
18 Alliance meetings and seminars to share their monotheistic religion
19 and the tenets of their faith, and the important role that Sikh
20 Americans play in furthering mutual understanding and respect
21 among all peoples; now, therefore, be it

22 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
23 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby designates the
24 month of November 2012 to be California Sikh American
25 Awareness and Appreciation Month; and be it further

26 *Resolved*, That the Legislature recognizes and acknowledges
27 the significant contributions made by Californians of Sikh heritage
28 to our state, and by adoption of this resolution, seeks to afford all
29 Californians the opportunity to better understand, recognize, and
30 appreciate the rich history and shared principles of Sikh Americans;
31 and be it further

32 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
33 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution to the
34 Members of the Legislature, members of the California Sikh
35 American community, and other interested organizations or
36 persons.

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