

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 20**

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**Introduced by Assembly Members Logue and Perea**

February 20, 2013

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 20—Relative to postsecondary education.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 20, as introduced, Logue. Postsecondary education: instruction in world religions: Sikhism.

This measure would recognize the need for the inclusion of Sikhism in world religions, Eastern religions, Asian, and South Asian courses at all postsecondary educational institutions and recommend that the concerned governing bodies consider including Sikhism in their institution’s world religions, Eastern religions, Asian, and South Asian courses.

Fiscal committee: no.

1 WHEREAS, California is blessed and enriched by the  
2 unparalleled diversity of our residents; and  
3 WHEREAS, The United States Declaration of Independence  
4 states that all men are created equal, and this truth is emphasized  
5 by Sikh Holy Scriptures through hymns like, “One Father, and we  
6 are children of the One,” and “Recognize ye, all Humanity as the  
7 Same”; and  
8 WHEREAS, Sikh Americans appreciate and enjoy various  
9 citizen’s rights, including the “freedom to worship as you wish.”  
10 Our country is a country of immigrants and a pluralistic society,

1 with numerous ethnic groups practicing many different religions,  
2 including Sikhism; and

3 WHEREAS, In our highly diverse state, over 250,000 residents  
4 follow Sikhism, comprising  $\frac{1}{3}$  of the total estimated 750,000 Sikh  
5 population of our country; and

6 WHEREAS, Dr. D.S. Saund, a Sikh, became a naturalized  
7 United States citizen in December 1949, almost 30 years after  
8 immigrating to the United States in 1920. Dr. Saund first served  
9 as a judge in the Imperial Valley (1952–56) and then became the  
10 first Asian American elected to the United States House of  
11 Representatives in 1956, and other Sikhs have recently served as  
12 members of city councils and as mayors; and

13 WHEREAS, By dint of their hard work, the Sikhs have  
14 distinguished themselves in many fields, especially in agriculture,  
15 trucking, security services, small family owned businesses, medical  
16 services, engineering, and information technology and science, as  
17 noted in Assembly Concurrent Resolution 181 (Res. Ch. 161, Stats.  
18 2010) and in Assembly Concurrent Resolution 97 (Res. Ch. 60,  
19 Stats. 2012); and

20 WHEREAS, During the 1915 dedication of the first American  
21 Gurdwara (Stockton Sikh Temple), Professor Pope of the  
22 University of California, Berkeley, described Sikhism as pure and  
23 lofty monotheism, and mentioned the following as Sikhism's  
24 special features: no castes, no idol worship, equality of women,  
25 tolerance of other religions, free dining, and bravery of Sikh  
26 soldiers in times of war, and the Sikhs have served in all United  
27 States wars since 1917; and

28 WHEREAS, Guru Nanak (1469–1539) founded Sikhism in  
29 Northwestern India and Sikhism is not a branch of any other  
30 religion. Sikhs now live in most countries and have Gurdwaras in  
31 65 countries, with nine in greater Sacramento alone; and

32 WHEREAS, Earning their livelihood honestly, sharing their  
33 earnings with the needy, and meditating on the name of the Creator  
34 are the three Pillars of Sikhism. Truthful living, selfless service,  
35 and minimizing the vices and maximizing the virtues are important  
36 preachings of Sikhism; and

37 WHEREAS, The Sikhs are conspicuous and easy to spot, owing  
38 to their turbans, and have suffered from a disproportionately high  
39 number of hate crimes, including bullying and shooting, in the

1 misguided backlash of the September 11, 2001, attacks on our  
2 country; and

3 WHEREAS, The Sikh faith is the fifth largest world religion  
4 after Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism, and is the third  
5 largest monotheism, after Christianity and Islam, yet Sikhism is  
6 not included in world religions courses at most postsecondary  
7 educational institutions; now, therefore, be it

8 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
9 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby recognizes the  
10 need for the inclusion of Sikhism in world religions, Eastern  
11 religions, Asian, and South Asian courses at all postsecondary  
12 educational institutions, such as University of California, California  
13 State University, and California Community Colleges systems,  
14 and recommends that the concerned governing bodies consider  
15 including Sikhism in their institutions' world religions, Eastern  
16 religions and Asian, and South Asian courses; and be it further

17 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
18 of this resolution to the author, the Members of the Legislature,  
19 the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges, the  
20 Academic Senate of the California Community Colleges, the Chief  
21 Academic Officer, the Chancellor and the Vice Chancellor for the  
22 California State University, the President and the Executive Vice  
23 President for Academic Affairs of the University of California,  
24 and major Sikh organizations and interested persons.

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