

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 1, 2013

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 20**

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**Introduced by Assembly Members Logue and Perea**  
*(Coauthor: Senator Nielsen)*

February 20, 2013

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

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

ACR 20, as amended, 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~~ *advise the concerned academic governing bodies, deans, and department chairs to include* 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

1 WHEREAS, Sikh Americans appreciate and enjoy various  
2 citizen's rights, including the "freedom to worship as you wish."  
3 Our country is a country of immigrants and a pluralistic society,  
4 with numerous ethnic groups practicing many different religions,  
5 including Sikhism; and

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

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

16 WHEREAS, By dint of their hard work, the Sikhs have  
17 distinguished themselves in many fields, especially in agriculture,  
18 trucking, security services, small family owned businesses, medical  
19 services, engineering, and information technology and science, as  
20 noted in Assembly Concurrent Resolution 181 (Res. Ch. 161, Stats.  
21 2010) and in Assembly Concurrent Resolution 97 (Res. Ch. 60,  
22 Stats. 2012); and

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

31 WHEREAS, Guru Nanak (1469–1539) founded Sikhism in  
32 Northwestern India and Sikhism is not a branch of any other  
33 religion. Sikhs now live in most countries and have Gurdwaras in  
34 65 countries, with nine in greater Sacramento alone; and

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

1 WHEREAS, The Sikhs are conspicuous and easy to spot, owing  
2 to their turbans, and have suffered from a disproportionately high  
3 number of hate crimes, including bullying and shooting, in the  
4 misguided backlash of the September 11, 2001, attacks on our  
5 country; and

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

11 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
12 *thereof concurring,* That the Legislature hereby recognizes the  
13 need for the inclusion of Sikhism in world religions, Eastern  
14 religions, Asian, and South Asian courses at all postsecondary  
15 educational institutions, such as University of California, California  
16 State University, and California Community Colleges systems,  
17 and ~~recommends that the concerned governing bodies consider~~  
18 ~~including Sikhism~~ *advises the concerned academic governing*  
19 *bodies, deans, and department chairs to include Sikh culture and*  
20 *faith in their institutions' world religions, Eastern religions and,*  
21 *Asian, and South Asian courses; and be it further*

22 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
23 of this resolution to the author, the Members of the Legislature,  
24 the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges, the  
25 Academic Senate of the California Community Colleges, the Chief  
26 Academic Officer, the Chancellor and the Vice Chancellor for the  
27 California State University, the President and the Executive Vice  
28 President for Academic Affairs of the University of California,  
29 *for further transmission to the deans of humanities and chairs of*  
30 *philosophy and religious studies departments,* and major Sikh  
31 organizations and interested persons.

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