

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 15, 2013

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY APRIL 1, 2013

CALIFORNIA LEGISLATURE—2013–14 REGULAR SESSION

Assembly Concurrent Resolution

No. 20

Introduced by Assembly Members Logue and Perea

(Coauthors: Assembly Members Achadjian, Alejo, Allen, Ammiano, Atkins, Bigelow, Bloom, Blumenfeld, Bocanegra, Bonilla, Bonta, Bradford, Brown, Buchanan, Ian Calderon, Campos, Chau, Chávez, Chesbro, Conway, Cooley, Dahle, Daly, Dickinson, Donnelly, Eggman, Fong, Fox, Frazier, Beth Gaines, Garcia, Gatto, Gray, Gordon, Gorell, Grove, Hagman, Hall, Roger Hernández, Holden, Jones, Jones-Sawyer, Levine, Linder, Maienschein, Mansoor, Medina, Melendez, Mitchell, Morrell, Mullin, Muratsuchi, Nazarian, Nestande, Olsen, Pan, Patterson, John A. Pérez, V. Manuel Pérez, Quirk, Quirk-Silva, Rendon, Salas, Skinner, Stone, Ting, Torres, Wagner, Waldron, Weber, Wieckowski, Wilk, Williams, and Yamada)

(Coauthor: Senator Nielsen)

February 20, 2013

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 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

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,
11 with numerous ethnic groups practicing many different religions,
12 including Sikhism; and

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

16 WHEREAS, Dr. D.S. Saund, a Sikh, became a naturalized
17 United States citizen in December 1949, almost 30 years after
18 immigrating to the United States in 1920. Dr. Saund first served
19 as a judge in the Imperial Valley (1952–56) and then became the
20 first Asian American elected to the United States House of
21 Representatives in 1956, and other Sikhs have recently served as
22 members of city councils and as mayors; and

23 WHEREAS, By dint of their hard work, the Sikhs have
24 distinguished themselves in many fields, especially in agriculture,
25 trucking, security services, small family owned businesses, medical
26 services, engineering, and information technology and science, as
27 noted in Assembly Concurrent Resolution 181 (Res. Ch. 161, Stats.
28 2010) and in Assembly Concurrent Resolution 97 (Res. Ch. 60,
29 Stats. 2012); and

30 WHEREAS, During the 1915 dedication of the first American
31 Gurdwara (Stockton Sikh Temple), Professor Pope of the
32 University of California, Berkeley, described Sikhism as pure and
33 lofty monotheism, and mentioned the following as Sikhism's
34 special features: no castes, no idol worship, equality of women,
35 tolerance of other religions, free dining, and bravery of Sikh

1 soldiers in times of war, and the Sikhs have served in all United
2 States wars since 1917; and

3 WHEREAS, Guru Nanak (1469–1539) founded Sikhism in
4 Northwestern India and Sikhism is not a branch of any other
5 religion. Sikhs now live in most countries and have Gurdwaras in
6 65 countries, with nine in greater Sacramento alone; and

7 WHEREAS, Earning their livelihood honestly, sharing their
8 earnings with the needy, and meditating on the name of the Creator
9 are the three Pillars of Sikhism. Truthful living, selfless service,
10 and minimizing the vices and maximizing the virtues are important
11 preachings of Sikhism; and

12 WHEREAS, The Sikhs are conspicuous and easy to spot, owing
13 to their turbans, and have suffered from a disproportionately high
14 number of hate crimes, including bullying and shooting, in the
15 misguided backlash of the September 11, 2001, attacks on our
16 country; and

17 WHEREAS, The Sikh faith is the fifth largest world religion
18 after Christianity, Islam, Hinduism, and Buddhism, and is the third
19 largest monotheism, after Christianity and Islam, yet Sikhism is
20 not included in world religions courses at most postsecondary
21 educational institutions; now, therefore, be it

22 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*
23 *thereof concurring*, That the Legislature hereby recognizes the
24 need for the inclusion of Sikhism in world religions, Eastern
25 religions, Asian, and South Asian courses at all postsecondary
26 educational institutions, such as University of California, California
27 State University, and California Community Colleges systems,
28 and advises the concerned academic governing bodies, deans, and
29 department chairs to include Sikh culture and faith in their
30 institutions' world religions, Eastern religions, Asian, and South
31 Asian courses; and be it further

32 *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies
33 of this resolution to the author, the Members of the Legislature,
34 the Chancellor of the California Community Colleges, the
35 Academic Senate of the California Community Colleges, the Chief
36 Academic Officer, the Chancellor and the Vice Chancellor for the
37 California State University, the President and the Executive Vice
38 President for Academic Affairs of the University of California,
39 for further transmission to the deans of humanities and chairs of

- 1 philosophy and religious studies departments, and major Sikh
- 2 organizations and interested persons.

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