

Date of Hearing: April 8, 2021

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES
Ken Cooley, Chair
HR 37 (Kara) – As Introduced April 6, 2021

SUBJECT: Vaisakhi.

SUMMARY: Recognizes this year’s Vaisakhi celebration on Tuesday, April 13, 2021, encourages Californians to take part in this joyous day of celebration, and expresses deepest respect for all who observe and celebrate Vaisakhi. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) Vaisakhi, also spelled Baisakhi, is an ancient festival of great significance to Sikhs, Hindus, and Buddhists in many regions of India and other parts of South and Southeast Asia, and is celebrated annually on April 13 or 14 by many Californians with Sikh and Indian heritage.
- 2) Vaisakhi, in several parts of Northern India, especially Punjab, is a long-established harvest festival, which predates Sikhism, to celebrate the agricultural year and pray for abundant “rabi” crop produce for the next season.
- 3) For Sikhs and Sikh Americans, Vaisakhi holds special religious and historical significance because it commemorates the creation of Khalsa by the 10th Guru Gobind Singh in 1699, whereby five Sikhs called “Panj Piaray” or “Beloved Five” were transformed into leaders of the faith to defend religious freedom.
- 4) For Hindus and Hindu Americans, the first day of Vaisakhi marks the traditional solar new year and is celebrated in diverse ways to mark spring harvest and the sacredness of rivers in Hindu culture.
- 5) The Sikh American celebration of Vaisakhi embodies an array of religious and cultural celebrations, including worship, parades, dancing, and singing throughout the day and includes performing seva (selfless service), such as providing free meals to the needy and inviting visitors to Gurdwaras (Houses of Worship).
- 6) Sikh Gurdwaras throughout the world and in California are decorated and hold celebrations, and many Sikh Americans choose to be baptized as Khalsa on this day

FISCAL EFFECT: None

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

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