

By: Turner of Harris

H.R. No. 1512

R E S O L U T I O N

1 WHEREAS, On April 13, 2015, members of the Sikh community are
2 coming together in Texas and around the world to celebrate
3 Vaisakhi, one of the most important dates on the Sikh calendar; and

4 WHEREAS, Sikhism is the fifth-largest religion in the world,
5 with more than 25 million adherents, including an estimated 700,000
6 in the United States; the majority of Sikhs live in the Punjab
7 province of India, in the region where the religion was founded in
8 the 15th century by Guru Nanak Dev; and

9 WHEREAS, A monotheistic faith, Sikhism teaches respect for
10 all people, regardless of race, religion, gender, or background; it
11 stresses the importance of doing good in the world and
12 demonstrating such positive values as humility, diligence,
13 generosity, and self-sacrifice in daily life; and

14 WHEREAS, Vaisakhi celebrates the founding in 1699 of the
15 devout Sikh fellowship known as the Khalsa; Guru Gobind Singh
16 bestowed on all Khalsa men the surname Singh, meaning "lion," as a
17 reminder to be courageous, and women accepted the surname Kaur, or
18 "princess," to emphasize dignity; and

19 WHEREAS, The first Sikhs came to the United States in the
20 1890s to build railroads, work on California farms, or labor in the
21 lumber mills of the Pacific Northwest; since then, Sikh Americans
22 in all walks of life have contributed to the social, cultural, and
23 economic vibrancy of the United States; and

24 WHEREAS, The festival of Vaisakhi presents an ideal

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1 opportunity to affirm the belief in justice, equality, and freedom
2 that is cherished by all Americans and by Sikhs the world over; now,
3 therefore, be it

4 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 84th Texas
5 Legislature hereby commemorate the festival of Vaisakhi and extend
6 to all Sikh Texans sincere best wishes for a meaningful and
7 memorable observance.