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LRB102 17842 LAW 24301 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, Sikhs have been living in the United States for  
3 more than 100 years; during the early 20th century, thousands  
4 of Sikh Americans worked on farms, in lumber mills and mines,  
5 and on the Oregon, Pacific, and Eastern Railroads; and

6           WHEREAS, The Sikhs constitute a well-established,  
7 religious, social, and ethnic group among the people who have  
8 immigrated to Illinois and to the United States of America;  
9 and

10           WHEREAS, Sikh immigrants have added greatly, both  
11 culturally and economically, to the State of Illinois and the  
12 United States while simultaneously continuing to maintain  
13 their own culture and traditions; and

14           WHEREAS, Sikh Americans pursue diverse professions and  
15 make rich contributions to the social, cultural, and economic  
16 vibrancy of the State of Illinois and the United States,  
17 including serving in the United States Armed Forces and  
18 offering significant contributions in agriculture, information  
19 technology, small businesses, the hotel industry, trucking,  
20 medicine, and technology; and

21           WHEREAS, Sikhism is the fifth-largest religion in the

1 world; today, there are more than 30 million Sikhs worldwide,  
2 an estimated 500,000 Sikh Americans, and 25,000 Sikhs residing  
3 in the State of Illinois; and

4 WHEREAS, This year marks the 400th birth anniversary of  
5 the ninth Sikh guru, Guru Tegh Bahadur Ji, who was born on  
6 April 18, 1621; and

7 WHEREAS, Sikh Americans have distinguished themselves by  
8 fostering respect among all people through faith and service;  
9 and

10 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois is committed to the value  
11 of religious diversity, tolerance grounded in the First  
12 Amendment principles, a culture of mutual understanding, the  
13 diminution of violence, and educating citizens about the  
14 world's religions; and

15 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois seeks to further the  
16 diversity of its community and afford all residents the  
17 opportunity to better understand, recognize, and appreciate  
18 the rich history and shared experiences of Sikh Americans; and

19 WHEREAS, The State of Illinois honors the many ways that  
20 Sikh Americans have influenced American history, achievement,  
21 culture, and innovation; therefore, be it

1           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL  
2 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare April 2021  
3 as Sikh Awareness and Appreciation Month in the State of  
4 Illinois; and be it further

5           RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
6 delivered to the Sikh Religious Society.