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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Diwali is a five-day festival of lights that takes place in autumn and represents new beginnings, celebrating good over evil and light over darkness; and

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WHEREAS, The word Diwali comes from the Sanskrit word Deepavali, meaning "rows of lighted lamps"; and

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WHEREAS, Diwali is celebrated by millions of Hindus, Jains, Buddhists, and Sikhs, and each religion marks different events and stories; and

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WHEREAS, While Diwali is important to each faith for different reasons, the holiday retains the unifying theme of the triumph of good over evil or "light over darkness", and this focus on light is why it is known as the festival of lights; and

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WHEREAS, Celebrants of Diwali light small oil lamps and place them around their homes, with the lights symbolizing the light within each individual that rids the soul of the darkness of ignorance; and

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WHEREAS, Celebrants also pray, craft flower garlands, place floating candles in water, share sweets, and make

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1 lanterns, which they then display in their homes or send them  
2 into the night sky; and

3 WHEREAS, Diwali is celebrated by four million Indian  
4 Americans in the United States and by millions more worldwide;  
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6 WHEREAS, Illinois understands the cultural significance of  
7 Diwali and the religious diversity in Illinois, the U.S., and  
8 the world; and

9 WHEREAS, The message of Diwali resonates with Illinoisans,  
10 Americans, and citizens of the world now more than ever;  
11 therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL  
13 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare October 31,  
14 2024 as Diwali Day in the State of Illinois in honor of those  
15 in Illinois and across the nation who celebrate this  
16 significant holiday.