

House Resolution 656

By: Representatives Clark of the 108th, McClain of the 100th, Kennard of the 102nd, McLaurin of the 51st, Park of the 101st, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing April 14, 2019, as Sikh Awareness and Appreciation Day at the state capitol;
2 and for other purposes.

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

6 WHEREAS, Sikhism is the fifth largest religion in the world and, today, there are more than
7 30 million Sikhs worldwide and an estimated 500,000 Sikh Americans; and

8 WHEREAS, Vaisakhi is one of the most historically significant days of the year for Sikhs
9 and is celebrated on April 14, 2019; and

10 WHEREAS, 2019 is the 550th birthday of the first of ten gurus and founder of Sikhism, Guru
11 Nanak. This day is celebrated for Sikhs in Georgia and worldwide as Guru Nanak's
12 Gurburab and is one of the most important dates in the Sikh calendar; and

13 WHEREAS, Sikh Americans pursue diverse professions and make rich contributions to the
14 social, cultural, and economic vibrancy of the United States, including service as members
15 of the United States armed forces, and significant contributions to our great nation in
16 agriculture, information technology, small businesses, the hotel industry, trucking, medicine,
17 and technology; and

18 WHEREAS, Sikh Americans have distinguished themselves by fostering respect among all
19 people through faith and service; and

20 WHEREAS, Georgia is committed to educating citizens about the world's religions, the value
21 of religious diversity, tolerance grounded in First Amendment principles, a culture of mutual
22 understanding, and the diminution of violence; and

23 WHEREAS, today, the Georgia General Assembly seeks to further the diversity of its
24 community and afford all residents the opportunity to better understand, recognize, and
25 appreciate the rich history and shared experiences of Sikh Americans.

26 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
27 the members of this body recognize April 14, 2019, as Sikh Awareness and Appreciation
28 Day at the state capitol.

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
30 and directed to make appropriate copies of this resolution available for distribution to the
31 press and the public.