

[First Reprint]

**ASSEMBLY JOINT RESOLUTION**

**No. 46**

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**STATE OF NEW JERSEY**

**221st LEGISLATURE**

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PRE-FILED FOR INTRODUCTION IN THE 2024 SESSION

**Sponsored by:**

**Assemblyman ROBERT J. KARABINCHAK**

**District 18 (Middlesex)**

**Assemblyman STERLEY S. STANLEY**

**District 18 (Middlesex)**

**Assemblywoman MITCHELLE DRULIS**

**District 16 (Hunterdon, Mercer, Middlesex and Somerset)**

**Co-Sponsored by:**

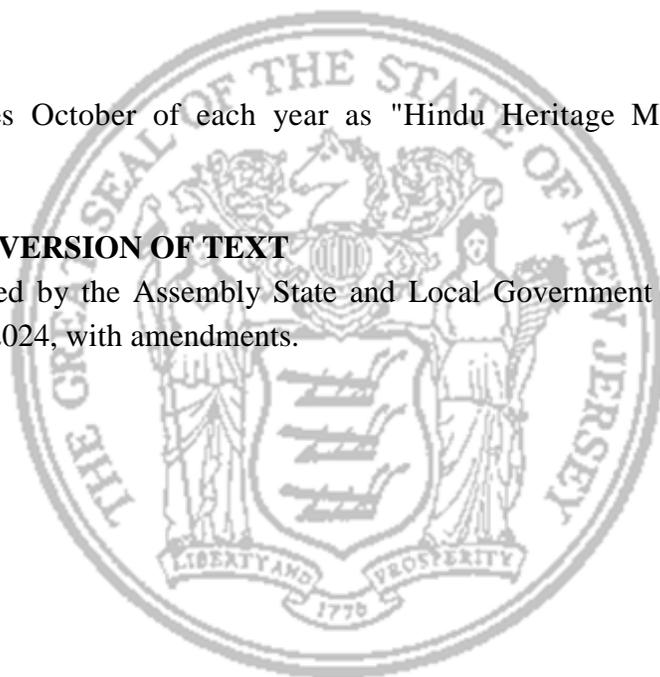
**Assemblywoman McCoy, Assemblyman Conaway, Assemblywoman Speight, Assemblymen Verrelli, Marengo, Assemblywomen Quijano, Collazos-Gill, Assemblyman Freiman and Assemblywoman Hall**

**SYNOPSIS**

Designates October of each year as "Hindu Heritage Month" in New Jersey.

**CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT**

As reported by the Assembly State and Local Government Committee on February 1, 2024, with amendments.



**(Sponsorship Updated As Of: 2/12/2024)**

1 A JOINT RESOLUTION, designating <sup>1</sup>**[January]** October<sup>1</sup> of each year  
2 as "Hindu Heritage Month" in New Jersey.

3  
4 WHEREAS, Hinduism is the world's oldest religion, dating back to a  
5 time between 3000-8000 BCE; and

6 WHEREAS, Among many practices, Hindus believe in karma,  
7 reincarnation, non-violence, and the spiritual nature of living  
8 beings; and

9 WHEREAS, Hindus believe in a divine higher power that takes form in  
10 many deities, such as Brahma, Vishnu, Shiva, Ganesha, Devi,  
11 Krishna, Lakshmi, Saraswati, Durga and Kali; and

12 WHEREAS, There are many holidays celebrated throughout the year in  
13 which Hindus honor various deities, but the most well-known in the  
14 United States are Diwali and Holi; and

15 WHEREAS, Diwali, the Festival of Lights, celebrates Lakshmi, who is  
16 the goddess representing wealth and good fortune; and

17 WHEREAS, Holi, the Festival of Colors, is a holiday that honors the  
18 beginning of spring, in which bonfires are lit and colored paste and  
19 water is thrown on those celebrating; and

20 <sup>1</sup>**[WHEREAS, Hindus have made enormous contributions to cultural  
21 development throughout history, including significant achievements  
22 in math, science, and medicine used in the modern world; and]**<sup>1</sup>

23 WHEREAS, There are over 1.1 billion Hindus in the world; and

24 WHEREAS, <sup>1</sup>**[About three percent of New Jersey's population is  
25 Hindu, making]**<sup>1</sup> New Jersey <sup>1</sup>**[the state with]** has<sup>1</sup> the highest  
26 percentage <sup>1</sup>of Hindus<sup>1</sup> in the United States; and

27 <sup>1</sup>**[WHEREAS, The largest Hindu temple in the world, called BAPS  
28 Shri Swaminarayan Mandir, is located in Robbinsville, New Jersey;  
29 and]**

30 WHEREAS, Hinduism has influenced many different aspects of  
31 American culture and thought. Notable Hindu influences in New  
32 Jersey can be seen in philosophy, yoga, meditation, music, food,  
33 art, dance, and medicine; and

34 WHEREAS, Hindus are active participants in the New Jersey  
35 economy and are practitioners in all areas of the workforce, such  
36 as science, business, politics, technology, and academics; and<sup>1</sup>

37 WHEREAS, New Jersey has a large and vibrant Hindu community that  
38 deserves recognition for their rich and noteworthy history and  
39 cultural contributions to this State; now, therefore,

40  
41 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*  
42 *State of New Jersey:*

43  
44 1. The month of <sup>1</sup>**[January]** October<sup>1</sup> of each year is  
45 designated as "Hindu Heritage Month" in the State of New Jersey.

EXPLANATION – Matter enclosed in bold-faced brackets **[thus]** in the above bill is not enacted and is intended to be omitted in the law.

Matter underlined thus is new matter.

Matter enclosed in superscript numerals has been adopted as follows:

<sup>1</sup>Assembly ASL committee amendments adopted February 1, 2024.

**AJR46 [1R] KARABINCHAK, STANLEY**

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- 1       2. The Governor is requested to annually issue a proclamation
- 2 calling on the public officials and citizens of this State to observe
- 3 “Hindu Heritage Month” with appropriate activities and programs.
- 4
- 5       3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.