

SENATE COMMITTEE SUBSTITUTE FOR
SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION No. 12

STATE OF NEW JERSEY
221st LEGISLATURE

ADOPTED JUNE 20, 2024

Sponsored by:

Senator PATRICK J. DIEGNAN, JR.

District 18 (Middlesex)

Senator GORDON M. JOHNSON

District 37 (Bergen)

Co-Sponsored by:

Senator Greenstein

SYNOPSIS

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

CURRENT VERSION OF TEXT

Substitute as adopted by the Senate State Government, Wagering, Tourism & Historic Preservation Committee.



1 **A JOINT RESOLUTION** designating October of each year as "Hindu
2 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 **WHEREAS**, There are over 1.1 billion Hindus in the world; and

21 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey has the highest percentage of Hindus in the
22 United States; and

23 **WHEREAS**, Hinduism has influenced many different aspects of
24 American culture and thought. Notable Hindu influences in New
25 Jersey can be seen in philosophy, yoga, meditation, music, food,
26 art, dance, and medicine; and

27 **WHEREAS**, Hindus are active participants in the New Jersey
28 economy and are practitioners in all areas of the workforce, such
29 as science, business, politics, technology, and academics; and

30 **WHEREAS**, New Jersey has a large and vibrant Hindu community that
31 deserves recognition for their rich and noteworthy history and
32 cultural contributions to this State; now, therefore,

33

34 **BE IT RESOLVED** *by the Senate and General Assembly of the*
35 *State of New Jersey:*

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37 1. The month of October of each year is designated as "Hindu
38 Heritage Month" in the State of New Jersey.

39

40 2. The Governor is requested to annually issue a proclamation
41 calling on the public officials and citizens of this State to observe
42 "Hindu Heritage Month" with appropriate activities and programs.

43

44 3. This joint resolution shall take effect immediately.