

## SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 79

Senators Webber, Runestad, Chang, Polehanki, Camilleri, Johnson, Bayer, McMorrow, Huizenga and Shink offered the following resolution:

1           A resolution to recognize the historic, cultural, and  
2 religious significance of the festival of Diwali.

3           Whereas, Diwali is celebrated annually every autumn by Hindus,  
4 Sikhs, and Jains in Michigan, the United States, and throughout the  
5 world, with over one billion celebrants marking the holiday; and

6           Whereas, Diwali is a holy day, during which celebrants light  
7 small oil lamps and place them around the home. The lighting of the  
8 lamps is followed by prayers for attainment of health, wealth,  
9 knowledge, peace, and valor, and is recognized as the beginning of  
10 a new year for some Hindus; and

11           Whereas, "Diwali" is a shortened version of the Sanskrit word

1 "Deepavali", which means a row of lamps, and in English is referred  
2 to as the "festival of lights;" and

3       Whereas, Celebrants of Diwali believe that the rows of lamps  
4 symbolize the light within the individual that rids the soul of the  
5 darkness of ignorance; and

6       Whereas, For Hindus, Diwali is a celebration of the belief  
7 that light triumphs over darkness and good triumphs over evil; and

8       Whereas, For Sikhs, Diwali is feted as the day that the sixth  
9 founding Sikh Guru, or revered teacher, Guru Hargobind, was  
10 released from captivity by the Mughal Emperor Jehangir; and

11       Whereas, For Jains, Diwali marks the anniversary of the  
12 attainment of moksha or liberation by Lord Mahavira, the last of  
13 the Tirthankaras, who was the great teacher of Jain Dharma at the  
14 end of his life in 527 B.C.; and

15       Whereas, Michigan remains resolute in its commitment to  
16 fostering diversity of experience and religious acceptance; and

17       Whereas, Diwali is a time marked by qualities of togetherness,  
18 family, and community; now, therefore, be it

19       Resolved by the Senate, That the members of this legislative  
20 body recognize the historic, cultural, and religious significance  
21 of the festival of Diwali. We recognize the Diwali message of  
22 tolerance, compassion, and acceptance of others which resonates  
23 with the ideals of the American spirit; and be it further

24       Resolved, That we express respect and admiration to all those  
25 who celebrate Diwali throughout the world and in our own  
26 communities.