

## 2018 SESSION

LEGISLATION NOT PREPARED BY DLS  
ENGROSSED

18105276D

### HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION NO. 135

House Amendments in [ ] — February 12, 2018

*Designating January 14, in 2018 and in each succeeding year, as Makar Sankranti [ Day ] in Virginia.*

Patron Prior to Engrossment—Delegate McGuire

Referred to Committee on Rules

WHEREAS, Makar Sankranti is one of the main festivals celebrating the importance of the harvest in India; and

WHEREAS, similar to Thanksgiving Day in the United States, Makar Sankranti is a festival of thanksgiving to mother nature, the earth, farm animals, and the sun in the form of Lord Surya for the resources necessary for a bountiful yield of crops; and

[ WHEREAS, Makar Sankranti is a festival that falls mostly on January 14; it marks the first day of the sun's transit into the Makara (Capricorn); and ]

WHEREAS, [ ~~The~~ the ] festivities associated with Makar Sankranti are known by various [ ~~names by location~~ regional names ] such as Uttarayan in Gujarat, Lohri in northern India, Makara Sankranti (Pedda Panduga) in Karnataka [ , Telangana, ] and Andhra Pradesh, Sukarat in central India, Magh Biju in Assam, and Pongal in Tamil Nadu; and

WHEREAS, the Indian American community makes many important contributions to the economic growth in the Commonwealth, with highly educated professionals and entrepreneurs who work in a variety of fields, open new businesses, and create jobs, all the while continuing to observe and celebrate their rich cultural heritage; and

WHEREAS, Makar Sankranti Day brings together members of the Indian American community as they celebrate with gatherings, decorations, and special foods; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the House of Delegates, the Senate concurring, That the General Assembly designate January 14, in 2018 and in each succeeding year, as Makar Sankranti Day in Virginia; and, be it

RESOLVED FINALLY, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates post the designation of this day on the General Assembly's website.

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