

**The Florida Senate**  
**BILL ANALYSIS AND FISCAL IMPACT STATEMENT**

(This document is based on the provisions contained in the legislation as of the latest date listed below.)

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Prepared By: The Professional Staff of the Committee on Commerce and Tourism

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BILL: SR 210

INTRODUCER: Senator Campbell

SUBJECT: India Independence Day/India Heritage Month

DATE: January 12, 2018

REVISED: \_\_\_\_\_

|    | ANALYST | STAFF DIRECTOR | REFERENCE | ACTION             |
|----|---------|----------------|-----------|--------------------|
| 1. | Denton  | McKay          | CM        | <b>Pre-meeting</b> |
| 2. |         |                | RC        |                    |

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**I. Summary:**

SR 210 recognizes August 15, 2018, as “India Independence Day” and August 2018 as “India Heritage Month” in Florida.

Legislative resolutions have no force of law and are not subject to the approval or veto powers of the Governor.

**II. Present Situation:**

**Background**

The Republic of India is located in Asia, south of China and between Pakistan and Burma.<sup>1</sup> Its population is approximately 1.3 billion people, making it the second most populous country in the world.<sup>2</sup> Indians are one of the fastest growing immigrant group in the United States.<sup>3</sup> There are approximately 3.4 million Indians living in the United States, where they represent one percent of the overall population.<sup>4</sup> Florida is home to a significant population of approximately 143,000 Indians, representing 0.7% of the general population.<sup>5</sup> They are the largest Asian group at around 27 percent of the Asian population in Florida.<sup>6</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> United States Central Intelligence Agency, *The World Factbook: India*, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/in.html> (last visited Jan. 12, 2018)

<sup>2</sup> *Id.*

<sup>3</sup> Migration Policy Institute, *Indian Immigrants in the United States*, <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/article/indian-immigrants-united-states> (last visited Jan. 12, 2018)

<sup>4</sup> United States Census Bureau, *American Fact Finder*, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, [https://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/16\\_5YR/DP05](https://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/16_5YR/DP05) (last visited Jan. 12, 2018)

<sup>5</sup> United States Census Bureau, *American Fact Finder*, 2012-2016 American Community Survey 5-Year Estimates, [https://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/16\\_5YR/DP05/0400000US12](https://factfinder.census.gov/bkmk/table/1.0/en/ACS/16_5YR/DP05/0400000US12), (last visited Jan. 12, 2018)

<sup>6</sup> Stefan Rayer, Bureau of Economic and Business Research, *Asians In Florida*, (August 27, 2014) <https://www.bebr.ufl.edu/population/website-article/asians-florida> (last visited Jan. 12, 2018)

## History and Holidays

On August 15, 1947, India declared independence from Great Britain and formed a secular democratic government.<sup>7</sup> In addition to Independence Day, there are many holidays and festivals in the month of August. These holidays display the vast religious diversity of the country, with the Parsi New Year on August 17, 2018, the Muslim holiday Bakr-Eid on August 22, 2018, and the Hindu holiday Raksha Bandhan on August 26, 2018.<sup>8</sup> In addition to these holidays, there are a number of regional festivals celebrated in the southern state of Kerala.<sup>9</sup>

## Recognition of Indian Events

The United States House of Representatives has introduced many resolutions to recognize and honor India's Independence Day on August 15, including, but not limited to, the following:

- House Resolution 395, sponsored by Representative Ami Bera in 2015;<sup>10</sup>
- House Resolution 677, sponsored by Representative Jim McDermott in 2009;<sup>11</sup> and
- House Resolution 607, sponsored by Representative Jim McDermott in 2007.<sup>12</sup>

In 2014, the Florida Senate passed a resolution recognizing the exceptional achievements of the Indian film industry and celebrating the Tampa Bay area's hosting of the 15<sup>th</sup> annual International Indian Film Academy Awards.<sup>13</sup>

## Recognition of Other Commemorative Events in Florida

The Florida Senate has passed resolutions recognizing commemorative dates and months to honor the heritage of immigrant communities. Some recent examples include:

- In 2017, the Senate passed SR 1796, a resolution commemorating June 2017 as "Caribbean Heritage Month" in Florida;<sup>14</sup>

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<sup>7</sup> United States Central Intelligence Agency, *The World Factbook: India*, <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/geos/in.html> (last visited Jan. 12, 2018)

<sup>8</sup> Website of the Government of India, *Holiday Calendar*, <https://www.india.gov.in/calendar?date=2018-08> (last visited Jan. 12, 2018)

<sup>9</sup> *Id.*

<sup>10</sup> H.R. 395, 114<sup>th</sup> Cong. (2015) (Expressing the sense of the House of Representatives commemorating the Republic of India's Independence Day and recognizing United States-India relations on India's National Day), available at <https://www.congress.gov/bill/114th-congress/house-resolution/395?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22india%22%5D%7D&r=4> (last visited Jan. 12, 2018)

<sup>11</sup> H.R. 677, 111<sup>th</sup> Cong. (2009-2010) (Extending best wishes to the people of India as they celebrate the 62nd anniversary of India's independence from the British Empire), available at <https://www.congress.gov/bill/111th-congress/house-resolution/677?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22india%22%5D%7D&r=9> (last visited Jan. 12, 2018)

<sup>12</sup> H.R. 607, 110<sup>th</sup> Cong. (2007) (Extending best wishes to the people of India as they celebrate the 60th anniversary of India's independence from the British Empire), available at <https://www.congress.gov/bill/110th-congress/house-resolution/607?q=%7B%22search%22%3A%5B%22india%22%5D%7D&r=8> (last visited Jan. 12, 2018)

<sup>13</sup> Fla. SR 1680 (2014) (International Indian Film Academy), available at <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2014/1680> (last visited Jan. 12, 2018)

<sup>14</sup> Fla. SR 1796 (2017) (Caribbean Heritage Month), available at <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2017/8031/?Tab=BillText> (last visited Jan. 12, 2018)

- In 2017, the Senate passed SR 1838, a resolution recognizing April 12, 2017 as “Nigerian-American Day” in Florida;<sup>15</sup> and
- In 2006, the Senate passed SR 782, a resolution recognizing the month of June as “Caribbean-American Heritage Month” in Florida.<sup>16</sup>

### III. Effect of Proposed Changes:

SR 210 recognizes August 15, 2018, as “India Independence Day” and August 2018 as “India Heritage Month” in Florida.

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### IV. Constitutional Issues:

#### A. Municipality/County Mandates Restrictions:

None.

#### B. Public Records/Open Meetings Issues:

None.

#### C. Trust Funds Restrictions:

None.

### V. Fiscal Impact Statement:

#### A. Tax/Fee Issues:

None.

#### B. Private Sector Impact:

None.

#### C. Government Sector Impact:

None.

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<sup>15</sup> Fla. SR 1838 (2017) (Nigerian-American Day), available at <https://www.flsenate.gov/Session/Bill/2017/01838/?Tab=BillText> (last visited Jan. 12, 2018)

<sup>16</sup> Fla. SR 782 (2006) (Relating to Caribbean-American Heritage Month), available at [http://archive.flsenate.gov/session/index.cfm?Mode=Bills&SubMenu=1&BI\\_Mode=ViewBillInfo&BillNum=0782](http://archive.flsenate.gov/session/index.cfm?Mode=Bills&SubMenu=1&BI_Mode=ViewBillInfo&BillNum=0782) (last visited Jan. 12, 2018)

**VI. Technical Deficiencies:**

None.

**VII. Related Issues:**

None.

**VIII. Statutes Affected:**

None.

**IX. Additional Information:**

**A. Committee Substitute – Statement of Changes:**

(Summarizing differences between the Committee Substitute and the prior version of the bill.)

None.

**B. Amendments:**

None.