

**SENATE
STATE OF MINNESOTA
NINETY-THIRD SESSION**

S.R. No. 50

(SENATE AUTHORS: HOFFMAN and Gustafson)

DATE
05/03/2023

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Introduction
Referred to Rules and Administration

OFFICIAL STATUS

1.1 A Senate resolution
1.2 designating the month of January as Tamil Language and Heritage Month.

1.3 WHEREAS, Tamil is the longest-surviving classical language in the world, with a traceable
1.4 history exceeding 3,200 years. Tamil is an official language in India, Sri Lanka, and Singapore and
1.5 is a minority language in Malaysia, South Africa, Mauritius, and Canada. There are an estimated
1.6 90 million native Tamil speakers across the globe; and

1.7 WHEREAS, the Tamil community in Minnesota has made immense contributions to the
1.8 social, economic, and cultural fabric of Minnesota, including promoting Tamil language, arts,
1.9 culture, and heritage; and

1.10 WHEREAS, the Tamil community has also contributed significantly to bilingual literacy in
1.11 the state, with Minnesota students being the first to achieve the Seal of Biliteracy for the Tamil
1.12 language. Minnesota Tamils have established a self-sustaining literacy model for the Tamil language
1.13 through scholarship endowments and national level standards for Tamil education; and

1.14 WHEREAS, the Tamil community across the globe celebrates a four-day Pongal Festival
1.15 each year that starts on the first day of the first Thiruvalluvar year calendar month, which falls in
1.16 mid-January. The Pongal Festival celebrates the harvest, gives thanks to nature and cattle stock,
1.17 and celebrates Tamil arts. The fourth day of the festival honors Thiruvalluvar, the great poet, whom
1.18 the Thiruvalluvar year is named after. The Thiruvalluvar year is a continuous Tamil calendar starting
1.19 from 31 BCE; and

1.20 WHEREAS, the Minnesota Tamil community is committed to sharing their vibrant culture,
1.21 traditions, and history with the people of Minnesota and encourages all Minnesotans to participate
1.22 in celebrating January as Tamil Language and Heritage Month.

1.23 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the State of Minnesota that it hereby proclaims that the
1.24 month of January be designated as Tamil Language and Heritage Month in the State of Minnesota.