

---

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

---

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 675 Session of  
2020

---

INTRODUCED BY DONATUCCI, MALAGARI, KINSEY, BIZZARRO, HEFFLEY,  
KIM, HILL-EVANS, HOHENSTEIN, MILLARD, READSHAW, KORTZ,  
A. DAVIS, FREEMAN, MURT, YOUNGBLOOD, WILLIAMS, SCHLOSSBERG,  
BROOKS, FRANKEL, ISAACSON, NEILSON AND ROEBUCK,  
JANUARY 17, 2020

---

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON STATE GOVERNMENT, JANUARY 17, 2020

---

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing January 25, 2020, as "Chinese New Year" in  
2 Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, This Commonwealth is home to a diverse array of  
4 residents with various faiths, beliefs and traditions; and

5 WHEREAS, Among the residents of this Commonwealth, the Asian-  
6 American and Pacific Islander population has grown  
7 exponentially; and

8 WHEREAS, The most significant and widely celebrated holiday  
9 in the Asian community is "Chinese New Year" or Lunar New Year;  
10 and

11 WHEREAS, "Chinese New Year" falls on the first day of the  
12 lunar calendar and begins this year on January 25 and lasts for  
13 a period of 15 days; and

14 WHEREAS, During this time, families participate in a  
15 multitude of traditions, including cleaning their entire homes,  
16 having reunion dinners, setting off fireworks, using extravagant

1 decorations and exchanging red packets, known as hóngbāo,  
2 because red is customarily an auspicious color; and

3 WHEREAS, The origins of "Chinese New Year" begin with the  
4 mythical beast called "Nian," which would come out to harm  
5 animals, people and property on the night before the start of  
6 the new year; and

7 WHEREAS, After people discovered that Nian feared the color  
8 red, fire and loud sounds, they began posting decorative crafts  
9 in front of their homes, launching fireworks and hanging up  
10 lanterns during the end of the year; and

11 WHEREAS, The 12 Chinese zodiac animals that accompany each  
12 "Chinese New Year" are ranked in order based on the legend of  
13 the Heavenly Gate Race; and

14 WHEREAS, After deciding that time would be segmented into  
15 cycles of 12 years, the Heavenly Gate Race was held by the Jade  
16 Emperor to determine which animals would guard each cycle of  
17 time; and

18 WHEREAS, The first of the animals to finish the race would  
19 receive a better ranking and the order became Rat, Ox, Tiger,  
20 Rabbit, Dragon, Snake, Horse, Goat, Monkey, Rooster, Dog and  
21 Pig; and

22 WHEREAS, Marking a new cycle of time, the "Year of the Rat"  
23 begins January 25, 2020, and lasts until February 11, 2021; and

24 WHEREAS, "Chinese New Year" embodies the values of family and  
25 community that are shared by many residents of this  
26 Commonwealth; therefore be it

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize January  
28 25, 2020, as "Chinese New Year" in Pennsylvania.