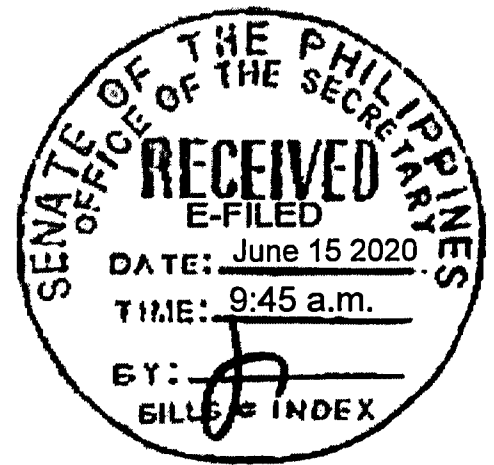


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



SENATE
S. B. No. **1595**

Introduced by SENATOR SONNY ANGARA

AN ACT
DECLARING THE CHINESE NEW YEAR'S DAY A SPECIAL NONWORKING
HOLIDAY IN THE PHILIPPINES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

According to a paper published by the Asian Center UP in 1986¹, the recorded history of the Philippines would be incomplete as a basis for understanding contemporary society unless it takes into account the Chinese mestizos contributions to our development as a nation.

Chinese-Filipinos fought with us for independence and freedom against Spain in 1896-1898, against the Americans in 1899 and against the Japanese in 1941-1945. In the 19th century, the presence of Chinese was important element of the Philippine society as they helped in the formation of the Filipino middle class as they provided trade and commerce to local workers. In addition, Filipinos with Chinese blood have occupied important positions in the highest levels of the government. Furthermore, many Chinese have adopted the Philippines as their home and have embraced the rich culture of Filipinos.

In view of the long relations with the Chinese, this bill recognizes the contributions of Chinese to our development as a nation. This proposed measure seeks to declare the annual celebration of the Chinese New Year's Day in the Philippine as a special non-working holiday in the entire country.

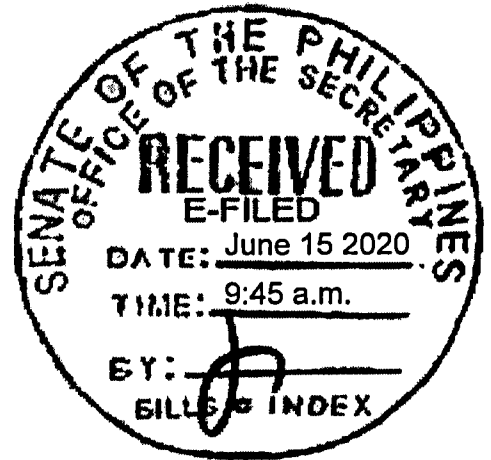
This bill was also filed in the House of Representatives by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez, who also believed that the government should preserve some of the shared valued traditions of Chinese and Filipinos by declaring the Chinese New Year as a special nonworking holiday.

In light of the foregoing, immediate passage of the bill is earnestly sought.


SONNY ANGARA

¹ https://www.persee.fr/doc/arch_0044-8613_1986_num_32_1_2316

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Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

1 **SECTION 1.** The annual celebration of the Chinese New Year's Day in the
2 Philippines is hereby declared a special nonworking holiday in the entire country.

3 **SEC. 2.** The Department of Labor and Employment and the Civil Service
4 Commission, in consultation with the Federation of Filipino-Chinese Chambers of
5 Commerce and Industry, Inc., shall determine and declare the date of the Chinese
6 New Year's Day every year.

7 **SEC. 3.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
8 *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,