

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Third Regular Session

SENATE
S.B. No. 3289

Introduced by Senator LOREN LEGARDA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

For centuries, the communities living in the Philippines and in China have had extensive ties built primarily on the basis of trade and commerce. These linkages were further strengthened by the gradual assimilation of ethnic Chinese with the local population following intermarriages among them. This is evidenced by the ancestry of the country's heroes like Jose Rizal and Gen. Vicente Lim.

At present, the ethnic Chinese and the Filipinos with Chinese ancestry make up about 1.3% and 22%, respectively of the country's population. The Filipino-Chinese as they are more known have played a key role in the economic and cultural development of the Philippines. Their known acumen in entrepreneurship and solidarity with their host country—as expressed in their volunteer organizations, have continued to strengthen ties among various communities.

This bill seeks to recognize the immeasurable contribution of the Filipino Chinese community in our country and strengthen the Filipino-Chinese amity by declaring the day on which the Chinese New Year falls each year as a special working Holiday throughout the entire Philippines.

LOREN LEGARDA

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AN ACT
DECLARING THE DAY ON WHICH CHINESE NEW YEAR FALLS
EACH YEAR AS A SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY
AS A SIGN OF GOODWILL AND AMITY
BETWEEN THE PHILIPPINES AND CHINA

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

SECTION 1. Recognizing the immeasurable contribution of the Filipino Chinese community in our country and in order to strengthen the Filipino-Chinese amity, the day on which the Chinese New Year falls each year is hereby declared as a special working Holiday throughout the entire Philippines.

SECTION 2. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) calendar days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,