



SR0949

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The day of April 1 is annually celebrated as the Assyrian New Year and is also known as Kha b'Nissan or Akitu; and

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WHEREAS, The Assyrian New Year is known to be the oldest celebration in history and is not only the first day of the new year but also marks the start of spring and serves as a symbol of revival; and

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WHEREAS, This New Year marks year 6772 in the Assyrian calendar; in ancient Assyria, the Assyrian New Year festival was celebrated for 12 days, coinciding with the Spring Equinox; and

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WHEREAS, The Assyrian New Year is recognized and celebrated by millions of Assyrians around the world in the form of festivals, parades, and parties; men and women will gather in traditional clothes and dance in open areas such as parks and community centers, and speeches and poetry will be shared; and

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WHEREAS, The Assyrian community has a vibrant history and heritage rooted in ancient traditions; ancient tablets detail magnificent Akitu festivities as they were celebrated

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1 thousands of years ago; some ancient traditions have survived,
2 such as the practice of hanging flowers from Assyrian homes,
3 known as Diqna d'Nissan or the 'beard of spring'; and

4 WHEREAS, In their various countries of origin, including
5 Iraq, Syria, Turkey, and Iran, governing authorities
6 historically infringed on the cultural and linguistic rights
7 of Assyrians and prohibited public celebrations of the
8 Assyrian New Year; and

9 WHEREAS, For Assyrians, both in Illinois and across the
10 nation, celebrating the Assyrian New Year serves as a vital
11 link to preserving their history and culture; and

12 WHEREAS, According to the Assyrian Policy Institute,
13 Illinois is home to more than 80,000 Assyrian Americans; and

14 WHEREAS, The Assyrian New Year serves to remind the State
15 of Illinois of the many substantial contributions the Assyrian
16 community has made to Illinois and the social fabric of our
17 state; and

18 WHEREAS, It is imperative that members of the Assyrian
19 community across the globe feel seen, valued, and encouraged
20 to celebrate and preserve their cultural heritage; therefore,
21 be it

1 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND GENERAL
2 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF
3 REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING HEREIN, that we express our support
4 for the Assyrian community and the preservation of a vibrant
5 history and heritage rooted in ancient traditions; and be it
6 further

7 RESOLVED, That we declare April 1, 2022 as "Assyrian New
8 Year Day" in the State of Illinois in honor of our fellow
9 Illinois residents who celebrate their heritage on this day.