

TWENTIETH CONGRESS)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez and
Representative Maximo B. Rodriguez, Jr.

House Bill No. 6182

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The presence of the Chinese in our country is very significant. The Chinese arrived here prior to the arrival of the Spaniards in the 16th century. They started their families and put up their businesses here. They have intermarried with Filipinos and have raised their children as Filipinos and made them study in Philippine schools. They have voluntarily assimilated to our society. They put up businesses, provide employment to Filipinos, create more income for us and contribute to our Philippine economy. They celebrate some of their own customs and traditions here, the most significant of which is their New Year. The celebration of the Chinese New Year is likewise participated by us Filipinos who join the parade of the dancing dragons and are recipients of their famous tikoy.

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.

Considering our long relations with the Chinese many of whom have adopted the Philippines as their home, it is but just to help preserve some of their valued traditions. This bill seeks to preserve the Chinese tradition of celebrating their New Year by declaring it as nonworking public holiday for observance among Chinese, Filipino-Chinese and Filipinos, thus giving them honor and respect which is due them.


RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ


MAXIMO B. RODRIGUEZ, JR.

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AN ACT

**DECLARING THE CHINESE NEW YEAR'S DAY A SPECIAL NON-WORKING PUBLIC
HOLIDAY IN THE PHILIPPINES**

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

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

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

Section 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette*
or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,