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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2022

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SENATE RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING THE CELEBRATION OF THE CHINESE NEW YEAR "THE YEAR OF THE  
TIGER"

Introduced By: Senator Sandra Cano

Date Introduced: February 01, 2022

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1           WHEREAS, The most important and popular of festivals, the date of the Chinese New  
2 Year celebration, which is also known as the Lunar New Year, is fixed traditionally according to  
3 the lunar calendar as the second new moon after the winter solstice. This year the celebration falls  
4 on February 1, 2022; and

5           WHEREAS, No one is certain how far back the New Year celebrations go in history.  
6 Their religious background involves clearing away the bad luck of the old year and beginning  
7 anew. It was also believed that the various god-like spirits had to report on the past year to the  
8 ruler of heaven, the Jade Emperor. Many still open the celebrations by burning a paper image of  
9 Tsao Wang, the hearth god, thus sending him on his way one week before the New Year; and

10           WHEREAS, Usually on the day before New Year's Eve, men pay ceremonial visits to  
11 friends and associates, wishing them luck with the traditional greeting kung-hsi fa-ts'ai, meaning  
12 "Happy greetings and may you gather wealth." On the last day of the year, final preparations are  
13 made for the family's New Year's Eve feast, the highlight of the celebration. Before the meal, all  
14 doors are sealed with strips of paper to prevent the entrance of evil, and no one may enter or leave  
15 until these are removed shortly before dawn. After the meal, gifts are exchanged and, at midnight,  
16 solemn greetings and family ceremonies take place; and

17           WHEREAS, Traditionally, the festivities last 16 days until the Lantern Festival, a time  
18 for parades of elaborate paper lanterns and street dances by dragons or lions. New Year is also a  
19 time for giving alms to the poor and for eating special lucky foods; and

1           WHEREAS, Each lunar year is popularly known by one of the 12 animals of the Chinese  
2 Zodiac. These names provide a ready reference because each is used only once in 12 years. This  
3 year will be celebrated as "The Year of the Tiger"; now, therefore be it

4           RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby recognizes the  
5 celebration of the Chinese New Year--"The Year of the Tiger." This Senate also wishes to extend  
6 its deepest respect and appreciation to the Rhode Island Asian community for all that it has  
7 contributed to the rich diversity of Rhode Island culture. The closeness of the traditional Asian  
8 family, its dynamic work ethic, and its innumerable endowments to literature and the performing  
9 arts inspire us all; and be it further

10          RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to  
11 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Rhode Island Association of Chinese  
12 Americans.

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