

House Bill 1222

By: Representatives Tran of the 80th, Au of the 50th, Park of the 107th, Hong of the 103rd, and Byrd of the 20th

A BILL TO BE ENTITLED
AN ACT

1 To amend Chapter 4 of Title 1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to
2 holidays and observances, so as to designate the appropriate date of each year as the "Lunar
3 New Year" in Georgia; to provide legislative findings; to provide for related matters; to
4 repeal conflicting laws; and for other purposes.

5 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF GEORGIA:

6 style="text-align:center">**SECTION 1.**

7 The General Assembly finds that:

8 (1) The Lunar New Year marks the beginning of a new lunar calendar year, which
9 measures time based upon the cycles of the moon, and has been celebrated for thousands
10 of years in many countries;

11 (2) According to one legend, Buddha invited the animals of the world to visit him on the
12 Lunar New Year, rewarding those who came by naming a year in their honor. Each
13 animal, in turn, gave its characteristics to those born during its year;

14 (3) The Lunar New Year is a festival of great importance in Asian American
15 communities. It promotes both goodwill and self-reflection and is a joyous occasion
16 welcomed annually with distinguishing festivities and much preparation;

17 (4) The celebration of the Lunar New Year is a tradition by which Asian Americans
18 proclaim the arrival of a new year and look forward to what the new year will bring;

19 (5) Each year, many people of this state unite to celebrate the Lunar New Year, joining
20 to commemorate Asian American joy, cultures, and diversity; and

21 (6) It is, therefore, abundantly fitting and proper that the State of Georgia appropriately
22 recognize and celebrate Asian American culture and tradition by designating the
23 appropriate date of each year as the "Lunar New Year" in Georgia.

24 **SECTION 2.**

25 Chapter 4 of Title 1 of the Official Code of Georgia Annotated, relating to holidays and
26 observances, is amended by adding a new Code section to read as follows:

27 "1-4-27.

28 The date of each year that corresponds with the second new moon following the winter
29 solstice, or the third new moon following the winter solstice should an intercalary month
30 intervene, is designated as the 'Lunar New Year' in Georgia."

31 **SECTION 3.**

32 All laws and parts of laws in conflict with this Act are repealed.