

SB 5000 - H COMM AMD

By Committee on State Government & Tribal Relations

ADOPTED 04/06/2023

1 Strike everything after the enacting clause and insert the
2 following:

3 "NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature intends to designate a
4 time of year to formally remember and recognize the contributions of
5 Chinese Americans and finds that January of each year is a relevant
6 and appropriate time for such recognition. The legislature finds that
7 the California gold rush began on January 24, 1848, which brought
8 thousands of people to the area, approximately 30 percent of whom
9 were Chinese immigrants. With the immigration to the west as a result
10 of the gold rush, Washington became home to many Chinese immigrants.
11 Chinese immigrants contributed greatly to Washington's economy as
12 miners and workers in the salmon canning industry. The Chinese
13 population in Washington also grew when construction of the Northern
14 Pacific Railroad transcontinental line began in 1871, which ran from
15 Wisconsin and Minnesota to Washington and Oregon, as many laborers
16 who were recruited to work on the railroad were Chinese.

17 The legislature also finds that designating January of each year
18 as a time to recognize the contributions of Chinese Americans is
19 relevant in acknowledging the contributions of notable early Chinese
20 settlers. Goon Dip was well known as a visionary, philanthropist, and
21 entrepreneur, and is said to be the most influential Chinese
22 immigrant in the Pacific Coast during the early 20th century. Goon
23 Dip created a garment industry in Portland, Oregon where he taught
24 Chinese men who were disabled and unable to perform manual labor how
25 to sew. Goon Dip later expanded his business ventures to Seattle when
26 in January 1909, the Chinese government appointed him as honorary
27 consul for the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition, Washington's first
28 world's fair, held in Seattle. Anticipating large crowds for the
29 fair, Goon Dip built the Milwaukee Hotel at 662 King Street, which
30 would house hundreds of tourists. Goon Dip was also influential in
31 persuading Chinese businessmen to move Chinatown away from the
32 Elliott Bay tidelands to the area around the new King Street Station

1 at 2nd Avenue and Jackson Street. After his role as honorary consul
2 during the Alaska-Yukon-Pacific Exposition, Goon Dip was named
3 permanent consul and served under both the Manchu dynasty and the
4 Kuomintang. Goon Dip died on September 12, 1933, at the Milwaukee
5 Hotel and is buried in the family plot in Lake View cemetery in
6 Seattle. January is also the birth month of notable contemporary
7 Chinese Americans in the state, including Gary Locke, who graduated
8 from Seattle's Franklin High School and was the first Chinese
9 American elected as Governor in the continental United States, the
10 first Chinese American Secretary of Commerce, and the first Chinese
11 American ambassador to China.

12 The legislature finds that these and other contributions to the
13 state's rich history and economy by Chinese Americans is worthy of
14 recognition and celebration. The legislature further finds that
15 teaching this history in schools will help to commemorate the
16 important achievements of Chinese Americans.

17 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 43.117
18 RCW to read as follows:

19 (1) With the rise of economic opportunity in America and other
20 parts of the world in the 19th century, the Chinese diaspora is now
21 one of the largest in the world. As a result, many of those who are,
22 or whose ancestors were, part of the Chinese diaspora have varied
23 perspectives, experiences, and approaches in how they preserve their
24 identity as Chinese Americans and Americans of Chinese descent.

25 (2) January of each year will be designated as a time for people
26 of this state to commemorate the contributions of Chinese Americans
27 and Americans of Chinese descent to the history and heritage of
28 Washington state and shall be designated as Chinese American/
29 Americans of Chinese descent history month.

30 (3) Public schools are encouraged to designate time in January
31 for appropriate activities in commemoration of the lives, history,
32 achievements, and contributions of Chinese Americans and Americans of
33 Chinese descent."

34 Correct the title.

EFFECT: Removes the designation of January as Americans of Chinese Descent History Month and instead designates January as Chinese American/Americans of Chinese Descent History Month.

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