

Date of Hearing: April 15, 2024

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES
Blanca Pacheco, Chair
ACR 171 (Low) – As Introduced April 9, 2024

SUBJECT: Songkran New Year Festival.

SUMMARY: Recognizes April 13, 2024, to April 15, 2024, as the Songkran New Year Festival, which is celebrated by Asian and Pacific Islander communities throughout the state, nation, and world. Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) April 13, 2024, to April 15, 2024, will mark the celebration of Songkran, the traditional Thai New Year, which is also celebrated in Laos, Cambodia, Myanmar, by the Tai ethnic minority of Vietnam, and in the Yunnan province of China, as well as in Sri Lanka and other southeast Asian countries.
- 2) Songkran was originally Thailand's New Year's Day, signifying the start of the Thai calendar; between 1888 and 1940. Songkran and New Year's Day in Thailand was celebrated on April 1, but was later changed to April 13 to April 15, when January 1 became synchronized across the world as New Year's Day.
- 3) In Thailand, Songkran is one of Thailand's most celebrated and iconic festivals. It is a time when people reunite with their families and pay their respects to older adults, ancestors, and sacred Buddha images. Pouring water is a ritual act during Songkran, symbolizing cleansing, reverence, and good fortune. Other activities include bathing important Buddha images, splashing water on family and friends, folk plays, games, music, and feasting.
- 4) The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) recognized the value and importance of Songkran as an Intangible Cultural Heritage of Humanity on December 6, 2023.
- 5) The recognition of Songkran reflects California's commitment to celebrating the rich and diverse culture of our Asian American and Pacific Islander communities.

FISCAL EFFECT: None

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

Analysis Prepared by: Michael Erke / RLS. / (916) 319-2800