

Date of Hearing: April 21, 2025

ASSEMBLY COMMITTEE ON RULES

Blanca Pacheco, Chair

SCR 22 (Alvarado-Gil) – As Introduced February 12, 2025

SENATE VOTE: 39-0

SUBJECT: Assyrian New Year: Kha b'Nissan.

SUMMARY: Recognizes April 1, 2025, as the Assyrian New Year, Kha b'Nissan.

Specifically, **this resolution** makes the following legislative findings:

- 1) The first of April marks Akitu, commonly referred to as Kha b'Nissan, the Assyrian New Year and the most important Assyrian national holiday, the celebration of which is one of the many links between ancient and modern Assyrians.
- 2) In ancient Assyria, Kha b'Nissan marked the start of the new year and also the start of spring. As trees and flowers began to bloom, the holiday served as a symbol of revival, a major theme in ancient Assyrian mythology, and many Assyrians viewed it as the start of a new life.
- 3) Prior to the adoption of Christianity and the Gregorian calendar, in ancient times, Akitu was celebrated for 12 days, and the first of April coincided with the spring equinox.
- 4) A myth central to the Akitu celebration tells of the marriage between the goddess of love and the god of agriculture on the spring equinox and how, through their union, they ensured the renewal of life, blessing the earth with fertility.
- 5) Ancient tablets excavated from the Assyrian homeland detail celebrations of the Akitu holiday, the most important event in Assyria each year, from thousands of years ago when tens of thousands of people from all over the Assyrian Empire would travel to its capital city, Nineveh, to partake in the magnificent event led by the Assyrian kingship.
- 6) Many of the ancient traditions have been retired, but the tradition of Diqna d'Nissan, meaning “the beard of spring,” survives and is honored annually by the gathering of flowers and herbs by Assyrian women and girls that are then strung from the roofs of their homes.

FISCAL EFFECT: This resolution is keyed non-fiscal by Legislative Counsel.

REGISTERED SUPPORT / OPPOSITION:

Support

None on file

Opposition

None on file

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