

STATE OF MAINE

IN THE YEAR OF OUR LORD

TWO THOUSAND TWENTY-SIX

**JOINT RESOLUTION RECOGNIZING LUNAR NEW YEAR
CELEBRATIONS AND THE YEAR OF THE HORSE**

WHEREAS, Lunar New Year 2026, ushering in the Year of the Horse, was celebrated starting on February 17, 2026; and

WHEREAS, Lunar New Year begins on the second new moon following the Winter Solstice, or the first day of the new year according to the lunisolar calendar, and extends until the full moon 15 days later; and

WHEREAS, Lunar New Year began in China more than 4,000 years ago and is now widely celebrated in East and Southeast Asia, including Seollal in South Korea and Tet Nguyen Dan in Vietnam; and

WHEREAS, both those from Asia and those who are part of the Asian diaspora have expanded the Lunar New Year celebration into an annual, weeklong, worldwide event that is celebrated by over a billion people across the globe; and

WHEREAS, Lunar New Year is a time for family and friends to gather, during which elders present red envelopes to younger family members and all extend wishes of good fortune, health, prosperity and happiness; and

WHEREAS, Lunar New Year increases the visibility of important cultural traditions celebrated widely among the Asian diaspora amid the ongoing struggles that the community faces, particularly regarding the experiences of invisibility, hatred and violence; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That We, the Members of the One Hundred and Thirty-second Legislature now assembled in the Second Regular Session, on behalf of the people we represent, take this opportunity to join in celebrating Lunar New Year, a cultural tradition observed by many Mainers and over a billion people worldwide; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Legislature recognizes the importance of celebrating and uplifting the traditions, customs and values of Lunar New Year in order to provide visibility and safety to a community that experiences ongoing marginalization; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Legislature encourages local, state and national observances of Lunar New Year and the promotion of educational programs to inform the public about the history, symbolism and cultural significance of this holiday; and be it further

RESOLVED: That the Legislature reaffirms its commitment to recognizing and respecting cultural traditions that enrich the social fabric of Maine and contribute to its vibrant multicultural identity.