



SR0700

LRB104 21082 LAW 35214 r

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The Assyrian people, a Semitic community who also identify as Chaldeans and Syriacs, are the indigenous people of Mesopotamia in what is now modern-day Iraq, Syria, Turkey, and Iran who possess a history dating back to ancient times; and

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WHEREAS, The Assyrian people have faced systematic persecution in their ancestral homeland, including the Assyrian Genocide of 1915, which claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands, and the Simele Massacre of 1933, where thousands were killed by the Iraqi Army; and

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WHEREAS, The Assyrian community in the United States numbers nearly half a million people, with approximately 100,000 residing in Illinois, the largest concentration in the nation; and

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WHEREAS, Assyrian Americans have shared their rich culture and traditions with neighbors and friends while also serving as model citizens and public servants; and

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WHEREAS, The Assyrian people have made significant contributions to Illinois and the United States through their achievements in the arts, business, media, law, politics,

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1 education, medicine, architecture, engineering, and other  
2 fields, enriching the cultural and economic fabric of this  
3 State and the nation; and

4 WHEREAS, The Assyrian New Year, known in ancient times as  
5 Akitu and traditionally celebrated on the first of April,  
6 marks the arrival of spring and symbolizes rebirth, renewal,  
7 and the enduring spirit of the Assyrian people; and

8 WHEREAS, The Chicago Assyrian community has expressed  
9 plans to proudly commemorate the Assyrian New Year 6776 with a  
10 series of vibrant three-day festivals throughout the City of  
11 Chicago and the Village of Skokie, where the largest condensed  
12 Assyrian population resides, in April 2026; therefore, be it

13 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL  
14 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we declare April 2026  
15 as Assyrian Heritage Month in the State of Illinois; and be it  
16 further

17 RESOLVED, That we commend the Assyrian community in  
18 Illinois for their enduring contributions, resilience, and  
19 cultural heritage.