
SENATE BILL 5865

State of Washington

66th Legislature

2019 Regular Session

By Senators Hasegawa, Nguyen, Conway, Dhingra, Schoesler, Billig, and Honeyford

1 AN ACT Relating to declaring October as Filipino American history
2 month; adding a new section to chapter 43.117 RCW; and creating a new
3 section.

4 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

5 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that the writings
6 and teachings of American history have often overlooked the role of
7 people of color, among them the history of Filipino Americans, whose
8 heritage spans a colonial, political, economic, and cultural
9 relationship with the United States. The legislature also finds that
10 the earliest documented proof of Filipino presence in the continental
11 United States was on October 18, 1587, when the first "Luzones
12 Indios" set foot in Morro Bay, California. The Filipino American
13 national historical society recognizes the year of 1763 as the date
14 of the first permanent Filipino settlement in the United States in
15 St. Malo Parrish, Louisiana. Subsequent waves of migration followed,
16 and today Filipino Americans continue to make a lasting impact on the
17 history and heritage of Washington state and the United States. In
18 recognition of the critical economic, cultural, social, and other
19 notable contributions by Filipino Americans to Washington state and
20 the United States, the legislature has proclaimed October as Filipino
21 American history month since 2010.

1 The legislature further finds that the prominence of Filipino and
2 Filipino American population in Washington state warrants official
3 commemoration of the history and heritage of Filipino Americans.
4 Therefore the legislature intends to designate the month of October
5 as Filipino American history month, a period of commemoration that
6 highlights the contributions of Filipino Americans to Washington
7 state and the United States.

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

10 October of each year will be known as Filipino American history
11 month. Each October is designated as a time for people of this state
12 to commemorate the contributions of Filipino Americans to the history
13 and heritage of Washington state and the United States.

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