

(1) SUCCESSFULLY MADE LOANS IN MARYLAND THROUGH STATE OR FEDERAL LENDING PROGRAMS DESIGNED TO ASSIST SMALL AND MINORITY-OWNED BUSINESSES;

(2) HAD AN ACTIVE OUTREACH PROGRAM TO ASSIST SMALL AND MINORITY-OWNED BUSINESSES THROUGH WHICH THE FINANCIAL INSTITUTION HAS MADE EFFORTS IN MARYLAND; AND

(3) ESTABLISHED STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIPS IN MARYLAND WITH ENTITIES WHOSE MISSION IS TO PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE TO SMALL AND MINORITY-OWNED BUSINESSES.

SECTION 2. AND BE IT FURTHER ENACTED, That this Act shall take effect October 1, 2006.

Approved May 2, 2006.

CHAPTER 310

(House Bill 324)

AN ACT concerning

State Government - Commemorative Days - Asian Lunar New Year Day

FOR the purpose of requiring the Governor to annually proclaim a certain day as Asian Lunar New Year Day; and generally relating to commemorative days.

BY adding to

Article - State Government

Section 13-405

Annotated Code of Maryland

(2004 Replacement Volume and 2005 Supplement)

Preamble

WHEREAS, Dating from 2600 B.C., the Asian lunar calendar is the oldest calendar on earth and the longest chronological record in history; and

WHEREAS, The new year on the Asian lunar calendar begins at the second lunar month after the winter solstice; and

WHEREAS, The lunar new year is a time of commemoration, celebration, and deep meaning for millions of people throughout the world, including people in the United States and the State of Maryland; and

WHEREAS, The lunar new year is of particular significance to countless Americans, especially numerous Asian Americans, including those of Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese descent now living in Maryland; and