



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 10657

BY REPRESENTATIVES VELASCO, NIETO, BONDOC, BARBA, AGABAS, BARONDA, GATO, QUIMBO, TADURAN, SINGSON-MEEHAN, REYES, ELAGO, CULLAMAT, MACAPAGAL ARROYO, ZARATE, PALMA, ROMUALDO, ROMUALDEZ (F.M.), SANCHEZ, TEJADA, TEVES (J.), ALVAREZ (F.), DY (F.M.C.), PADUANO, SARMIENTO, REMULLA, GARBIN, MATUGAS, CUARESMA, BALINDONG, DALIPE, GARIN (J.), AGLIPAY, YU, MACEDA, GARIN (S.), BELMONTE, DEFENSOR (M.), LUSOTAN, VALERIANO, DEFENSOR (L.), ZUBIRI, CANAMA, LACSON-NOEL, OLIVAREZ, CRISOLOGO, CO (A.N.), CABATBAT, SAULOG, DY (I.P.), PINEDA, DELOS SANTOS, ORTEGA, CARI, GATCHALIAN, VILLA, ALBANO (A.), GONZALES (A.), GO (M.), GARCIA (J.E.), MALAPITAN, BAGATSING, DE VENECIA, FRASCO, KHO (E.), LIM, BIAZON, SILVERIO, REVILLA, CUEVA, GASATAYA, VALMAYOR, LEACHON, CASTELO, VARGAS ALFONSO, NAVA, LABADLABAD, ALONTE, DAZA, RIVERA, BRAVO, NOGRALES (J.J.), ENVERGA, NOGRALES (J.F.F.), CELESTE, GONZALES (N.), COLLANTES, ESTRELLA, ERIGUEL, ROBES, BOLILIA, VILLAR, HERNANDEZ, VILLANUEVA (N.), CABOCHAN, GO (E.C.), FUENTEBELLA, VIOLAGO, ROMERO, ABU, LARA, GUYA, LACSON AND CAMPOS, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1404

AN ACT

PROMOTING PHILIPPINE INDIGENOUS AND TRADITIONAL WRITING SYSTEMS AND PROVIDING FOR THEIR PROTECTION, PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

1 **SECTION 1. Title.** – This Act shall be known henceforth as the “Philippine Indigenous
2 and Traditional Writing Systems Act.”
3

4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is the policy of the State to inculcate, propagate and
5 preserve the cultural heritage and treasures of the Philippines as a means to foster patriotism
6 and social consciousness among the citizenry. To this end, there is a need to promote, protect,
7 preserve, and conserve the Philippine indigenous and traditional writing systems, using these
8 as tools for enhancing cultural development, instilling national pride and identity, and
9 safeguarding Filipino cultural heritage and identity.
10

11 **SEC. 3. Promotion of Philippine Indigenous and Traditional Writing Systems.** –
12 To generate greater awareness of indigenous and traditional scripts of the Philippines and
13 engender wider appreciation of their significance and beauty, the promotion of the writing
14 systems is hereby recognized as part of our cultural treasures.
15

16 The writing systems as expression of Philippine traditions and national identity shall be
17 promoted through the following:
18

19 (a) Mandate the Department of Education (DepEd) and Commission on Higher
20 Education (CHED) to include these writing systems in relevant subjects of basic and higher
21 education and offer an elective or specialized course in higher education on the study of the
22 same;
23

24 (b) Creation and support of activities that promote awareness of the writing systems,
25 particularly during *Buwan ng Wika* and similar occasions and events;

1 (c) Conduct seminars, conferences, conventions, symposia, and other relevant activities
2 on the study of the writing systems, taking in consideration of the writing system that is
3 indigenous to a particular region;
4

5 (d) Ensure proper record-keeping of relevant documents and preservation of oral
6 evidence on the writing systems; and
7

8 (e) Other applicable measures, as may be adopted by the concerned government
9 agencies.
10

11 **SEC. 4. *Protection, Preservation and Conservation of Indigenous or Traditional***
12 ***Scripts of the Philippines.*** – The National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) shall
13 be the lead agency in promulgating policy guidelines in the promotion of the writing systems.
14

15 Accordingly, the NCCA is hereby mandated to protect, preserve, and conserve the
16 writing systems as a national cultural treasure as provided in Republic Act No. 10066,
17 otherwise known as the “National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009”. The NCCA shall coordinate
18 with the DepEd, CHED, and other relevant government agencies for the proper implementation
19 of this provision.
20

21 **SEC. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty (60) days after the
22 approval of this Act, the NCCA shall, in coordination with the DepEd and CHED, promulgate
23 the necessary rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.
24

25 **SEC. 6. *Separability Clause.*** – If any part, section or provision of this Act shall be
26 declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other parts, sections and provisions not otherwise
27 affected shall remain in full force and effect.
28

29 **SEC. 7. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations
30 and other issuances or parts thereof that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are
31 hereby repealed or amended accordingly.
32

33 **SEC. 8. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
34 the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,