



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 8785

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BY REPRESENTATIVES BATAOIL, CAYETANO, ALEJANO, DALIPE,  
DURANO, FERRER (J.), BORDADO, CASTRO (F.L.), FORTUNO,  
CORTUNA, CAGAS, LABADLABAD, SALO, TINIO, CALALANG,  
LACSON, GOMEZ, HOFER, BAGATSING, GO (M.), BELARO,  
VIOLAGO, DIMAPORO (M.K.), NIETO, TAMBUNTING AND HOFER,  
PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1024

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AN ACT PROMOTING PHILIPPINE INDIGENOUS OR  
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. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the  
2 “Philippine Indigenous or Traditional Writing Systems Act”.

3 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared the  
4 policy of the State to inculcate, propagate and preserve the cultural  
5 heritage and treasures of the Philippines as a means to promote  
6 patriotism among the citizenry. Towards this end, there is a need to  
7 promote, protect, preserve and conserve Philippine indigenous or  
8 traditional writing systems, using these as tools for cultural  
9 development, to create a consciousness of, respect and pride for the  
10 legacies of Filipino cultural heritage and authentic identity.

1           SEC. 3. *Promotion of Philippine Indigenous or Traditional*  
2 *Writing Systems.* – To generate greater awareness of indigenous or  
3 traditional scripts of the Philippines and foster wider appreciation  
4 of their importance and beauty, the promotion of the writing  
5 systems is hereby recognized as part of our cultural treasures, and  
6 shall be protected and promoted.

7           The writing systems as representation of Philippine traditions  
8 and national identity shall be promoted through the following:

9           (a) Mandating the Department of Education (DepEd) and the  
10 Commission on Higher Education (CHED) to include the writing  
11 systems in relevant subjects of the basic and higher education  
12 curricula and create an elective or specialized course in higher  
13 education for the same;

14           (b) Creating and supporting activities that promote the  
15 awareness of the writing systems during *Buwan ng Wika* and other  
16 similar occasions and events;

17           (c) Conducting seminars, conferences, conventions, symposia,  
18 and other relevant activities on the study of the writing systems,  
19 taking consideration of the writing system that is indigenous to a  
20 particular region; and

21           (d) Ensuring the proper record-keeping of relevant documents  
22 and preservation of oral evidence on the writing systems.

23           SEC. 4. *Protection, Preservation and Conservation of*  
24 *Indigenous or Traditional Scripts of the Philippines.* – The  
25 National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) shall be the  
26 lead agency in promulgating policy guidelines in the promotion of  
27 the writing systems. The NCCA is hereby mandated to protect,

1 preserve, and conserve the writing systems as a national cultural  
2 treasure as provided in Republic Act No. 10066, otherwise known as  
3 the "National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009". The NCCA shall  
4 coordinate with the DepEd, CHED and other relevant agencies for  
5 the proper implementation of the same.

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

10       SEC. 6. *Separability Clause.* – If any part, section or  
11 provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid,  
12 the other part, section or provision not otherwise affected shall  
13 remain in full force and effect.

14       SEC. 7. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive  
15 orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof  
16 that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby  
17 repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,

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