

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )



Senate  
Office of the Secretary

23 FEB 13 P2:51

SENATE  
S. No. 1866

RECEIVED BY:

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Introduced by Senator Loren B. Legarda

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AN ACT  
PROMOTING THE USE OF BAYBAYIN AS A TOOL FOR CULTURAL  
DEVELOPMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES, PROVIDING FOR ITS  
PROMOTION, PROTECTION, PRESERVATION AND  
CONSERVATION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks the promotion, protection, preservation, and conservation of the "Baybayin" script.

The "Baybayin" is an ancient Philippine writing system composed of 17 cursive characters or letters representing either a single consonant, vowel, or a complete syllable. To recognize our traditional writing systems, which are objects of national importance and considered a National Cultural Treasure, the "Baybayin," an indigenous national writing script which will be Tagalog-based national written language and one of the existing native written languages, is hereby declared collectively as the "Baybayin" National Writing Script of the country. Hence, it should be promoted, protected, preserved, and conserved for posterity for the next generation.

This bill, therefore, seeks to promote, protect, preserve and conserve the script through the following (a) by requiring food manufacturers to inscribe "Baybayin" scripts and their translation on containers or labels; (b) by mandating the LGUs to use "Baybayin" scripts in their signage for street names, public facilities, among others;

(c) by requiring newspaper and magazine publishers to include "Baybayin" translation of their official name; (d) by directing the appropriate government agency to disseminate knowledge and information about "Baybayin" script by distributing reading materials in all levels of public and private educational institutions as well as in government and private agencies; and (e) by enjoining appropriate government and private agencies and offices to instill awareness of the declaration of "Baybayin" as the national writing system through the conduct of staff training for the proper handling of these important documents.

To provide us a glimpse into the legacies of the past that continue to shape the present and the future of our country, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



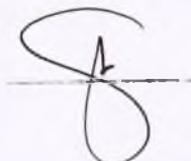
**LOREN LEGARDA**

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

1 Section. 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "National Writing System  
2 Act."

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the State's policy to inculcate, propagate, and  
4 preserve the cultural heritage and treasures of the Philippines for the evolution and  
5 development of patriotism among the citizenry by giving utmost priority to the  
6 conservation and promotion of arts, letters, and culture.

7 Towards this end, there is a need to promote, protect, preserve, and conserve  
8 "Baybayin," using it as a tool for cultural and economic development to create a  
9 consciousness, respect, and pride for the legacies of Filipino cultural history, heritage,  
10 and our authentic identity.

11 Sec. 3. *Declaration of "Baybayin" as the National Writing System of the Philippines.*  
12 - To generate greater awareness of the plight of "Baybayin" and foster wider  
13 appreciation of its importance and beauty, "Baybayin" is hereby declared the National  
14 Writing System of the Philippines.

15 As used in this Act, "Baybayin" shall refer to all existing and discovered ancient  
16 and traditional scripts of the Philippine indigenous peoples.

1           Sec. 4. *Promotion of "Baybayin" as the National Writing System of the Philippines.* –  
2 "Baybayin," as the national writing system representing Philippine traditions and  
3 national identity shall be promoted through the following:

4           (a) by requiring all manufacturers of locally produced processed produced  
5 food products to inscribe "Baybayin" scripts and their translation on  
6 their containers or labels;

7           (b) by mandating the local government units (LGUs) to include the  
8 appropriate "Baybayin" script in their signage for street names, public  
9 facilities, public buildings, and other necessary signage for other public  
10 service establishments such as hospitals, fire and police stations,  
11 community centers and government halls;

12           (c) by requiring newspaper and magazine publishers to include a  
13 "Baybayin" translation of their official name;

14           (d) by directing the appropriate government agency to disseminate  
15 knowledge and information about the "Baybayin" script by distributing  
16 reading materials in all levels of public and private educational  
17 institutions as well as in government and private agencies; and

18           (e) by enjoining appropriate government and private agencies and offices  
19 to instill awareness of the declaration of "Baybayin" as the national  
20 writing system through the conduct of staff training for the proper  
21 handling of these important documents.

22           Sec. 5. *Protection, Preservation, and Conservation of "Baybayin" Script.* – The  
23 National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) is hereby mandated to  
24 protect, preserve, and conserve "Baybayin" as a National Cultural Treasure.

25           Sec. 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days after the  
26 approval of this Act, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), in  
27 coordination with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of  
28 Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Education (DepEd) and  
29 Commission on Higher Education (CHED), shall promulgate the necessary rules and  
30 regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

1           Sec. 7. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and  
2 regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof that are inconsistent with the  
3 provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

4           Sec. 8. *Separability Clause.* - If any part, section, or provision of this Act shall be  
5 declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other part, section, or provision not  
6 otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

7           Sec. 9. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication  
8 in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,