

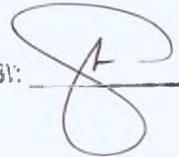
NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



23 JUL 26 P3:13

SENATE

S. No. 2365

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

**AN ACT
DECLARING AUGUST 1 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY TO
BE KNOWN AS THE PROMULGATION OF THE SOLEMN DECLARATION OF
PHILIPPINE INDEPENDENCE**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

June 12, 1898 is considered in our history as the "true birth date of an independent Filipino nation" when the revolutionary forces led by General Emilio Aguinaldo proclaimed freedom from the Spaniards by establishing a revolutionary government in Kawit, Cavite.

However, recent historical documents show that the original document declaring Philippine Independence authored by Ambrosio Rianzares Bautista was not signed by General Aguinaldo after expressing reservation to the stipulations that the country will be under the protection of the American government.

The new document on the Declaration of Philippine Independence was written by Apolinario Mabini, which was promulgated and signed by the 200 municipal presidents (now town mayors) from 16 provinces of the Philippine at the Bacoor Assembly on August 1, 1898 in the town of Bacoor, Cavite - the new seat of government. It also proclaimed General Aguinaldo as the President of the first Philippine independent government.

Then Secretary of Interior, Leandro Ibarra attested to the existence of the original document entitled ACTA (Act of Independence) and was ordered by President Aguinaldo to send the document to foreign governments in order for the country to be recognized as an independent state.

Subsequently, the Malolos Congress has ratified the document as Acta Agosto Uno as the Philippines' Act of Independence.

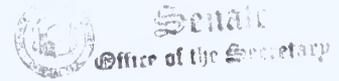
This historical discovery is supported by a duly subscribed copy of ACTA that was recently found in the custody of the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP).

This measure proposes to provide rightful recognition of the Bacoor Assembly that took place on August 1, 1898. The said state should be considered a historical milestone in the Philippine history when around 200 "Presidente Mayor" or local chief executives, from sixteen (16) provinces namely Cavite, Pampanga, Nueva Ecija, Laguna, Manila, Bulacan, Bataan, Tarlac, Morong, Batangas, Mindoro, Tayabas, Zambales, Pangasinan, La Union and Infanta, ratified the document on the Declaration of Philippine Independence.

In view of highlighting the importance of the Bacoor Assembly in our history, the approval of this measure is earnestly sought.


RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

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

1 Section 1. August 1 of every year is hereby declared a special working holiday
2 to be known as the "Promulgation of the Solemn Declaration of Philippine
3 Independence Day' in recognition and commemoration of the promulgation of the
4 declaration of Philippine Independence during the Bacoor Assembly in Bacoor, Cavite
5 on August 1, 1898.

6
7 Sec. 2. All laws, orders, presidential issuances, rules and regulations or part
8 thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

9
10 Sec. 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
11 *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,