

This bill aims to strengthen the rules on the creation, modification and registration of official seals and other heraldic items and devices of government entities to ensure that official seals and logos convey national ideals and traditions that express the principles of sovereignty and national solidarity.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY

1 **AND COLLEGES, ARMED FORCES OF THE PHILIPPINES, INCLUDING**
2 **ITS BASIC COMPONENT UNITS;**

3
4 **"HERALDIC ITEMS AND DEVICES" SHALL MEAN COAT-OF-ARMS,**
5 **SEALS, LOGOS, INSIGNIA, BADGES, FLASHES, PATCHES, ORDERS**
6 **AND DECORATIONS, MEDALS, STARS, CITATIONS, LAPEL PINS,**
7 **TROPHIES, DRY, WAX OR WET SEALS, AND IMPRINTS ON**
8 **LETTERHEADS, ENVELOPES AND CARDS; AND**

9
10 **"VEXILLARY ITEMS" SHALL MEAN NATIONAL, LOCAL, HOUSE FLAGS,**
11 **OR ADMINISTRATIVE, INSTITUTION, CORPORATE, UNIT AND**
12 **OTHER ORGANIZATION BANNERS.**

13
14 SEC. 2. Section 44 of Republic Act No. 8491 is hereby amended to read as
15 follows:

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17 **"SECTION 44.** Any government entity, including the military, may adopt
18 appropriate coat-of-arms, administrative seals, logo, insignia, badges,
19 patches, banners and initiate awards, citations, orders or decorations, as may
20 be authorized by the Congress or the Office of the President [.] **SUBJECT**
21 **TO THE APPROVAL AND RECOMMENDATION OF THE NATIONAL**
22 **HISTORICAL COMMISSION OF THE PHILIPPINES (NHCP)."**

23
24 SEC. 3. Section 45 of Republic Act No. 8491 is hereby amended to read as
25 follows:

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27 **"SECTION 45.** Such heraldic devices and items shall be filed with the
28 [Institute] **NHCP** for recording and evaluation as to precedence, design,
29 customs and traditions. The [Institute] **NHCP** shall promulgate the
30 corresponding rules and regulations which shall be submitted for approval to
31 the Office of the President or to Congress."

32
33 SEC. 4. A new Section 45-B is hereby inserted to read as follows:

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35 **"SECTION 45-B. THE APPLICATION FOR APPROVAL OF DESIGN AND**
36 **SPECIFICATION OF THE PROPOSED HERALDIC ITEMS AND DEVICES**
37 **SHALL BE SUPPORTED WITH THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS:**

38
39 **A. ORDERS, OR ANY FORMS OF GRANTS, LAWS OF AUTHORITY OR**
40 **CREATIONS;**

1 **B. BRIEF HISTORICAL BACKGROUND, SYMBOLISM, AND**
2 **SIGNIFICANCE OF EVERY DESIGN COMPONENT; AND**

3
4 **C. PHOTOGRAPHS OF EXISTING STRUCTURES, OBJECTS, SPOTS,**
5 **ETC. TO BE INCORPORATED IN THE DESIGN.”**

6
7 **THE NHCP SHALL RECOMMEND SUCH HERALDIC DESIGN TOGETHER**
8 **WITH THE NEEDED DOCUMENTS TO THE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT**
9 **OR CONGRESS FOR FINAL APPROVAL.**

10
11 **THE APPROVED DESIGN SHALL BE RETURNED TO THE NHCP FOR**
12 **PROPER RECORDING IN THE NATIONAL REGISTRY OF HERALDIC**
13 **ITEMS AND DEVICES AND FOR TRANSMITTAL TO THE REQUESTING**
14 **GOVERNMENT ENTITY.**

15
16 SEC.5. A new Section 45-C is hereby inserted to read as follows:

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18 **“SECTION 45-C. TO CONFORM TO THE BASIC HERALDIC**
19 **TRADITIONS, THE FOLLOWING SHALL BE OBSERVED IN THE**
20 **DESIGN, CREATION, MODIFICATION, REVISION AND APPROVAL OF**
21 **HERALDIC ITEMS AND DEVICES:**

22
23 **A. IT MAY FEATURE EITHER ABSTRACT OR NATURAL EMBLEMS**
24 **OR VISUALS, REPRESENTING SIGNIFICANT ASPECTS, OR**
25 **EVENTS REPRESENTATIVE OR RELATED TO ITS HISTORY,**
26 **MANDATES, DUTIES, FUNCTIONS AND VISIONS;**

27
28 **B. COMPONENTS OF HERALDIC DESIGNS MUST FEATURE**
29 **INDIGENOUS FILIPINO CULTURE, VALUES, HISTORY,**
30 **TRADITIONS AND SENSE OF NATIONALISM;**

31
32 **C. EVERY COMPONENT MUST BE RECOGNIZABLE AS IF IT IS**
33 **RENDERED OR REDUCED TO ITS NORMAL REQUIRED SIZES;**

34
35 **D. NO PERSONAL HERALDIC DEVICES SHALL BE ALLOWED**
36 **EXCEPT THE SEAL OF THE PRESIDENT AND THE VICE**
37 **PRESIDENT;**

38
39 **E. SYMBOLS, NAMES, INITIALS, LOGOS, PICTURES,**
40 **SILHOUETTES OR IMAGES OF LIVING PERSONS SHALL NOT BE**
41 **FEATURED IN THE DESIGN;**

1 F. THE NAME OF THE GOVERNMENT ENTITY OR TITLE OF
2 HERALDIC ITEMS AND DEVICES MUST BE IN PROMINENT
3 POSITIONS;

4
5 G. ALL HERALDIC ITEMS AND DEVICES, INCLUDING RIBBONS
6 OR SASHES, MUST BE UNIQUE FROM EACH OTHER;

7
8 H. THE NATIONAL COAT-OF-ARMS, WHICH MAY OR MAY NOT
9 INCLUDE THE SCROLL, WHEN USED AS THE MAIN PART OR AS
10 A COMPONENT OF THE SEAL, MUST OCCUPY THE PLACE OF
11 HONOR. IT SHALL BE USED ONLY BY THE MAJOR BRANCHES
12 OF THE GOVERNMENT;

13
14 I. IN USING THE NATIONAL COAT-OF-ARMS OR THE GREAT SEAL
15 FOR NUMISMATIC PURPOSES, WET OR DRY SEALS AND
16 PAINTED OR PRINTED IN MONOCHROME, TINCTURE
17 REPRESENTATIONS SHALL BE USED;

18
19 J. THE USE OF THE NATIONAL FLAG IS PROHIBITED EXCEPT
20 WHERE THE FLAG HAS BECOME PART OF ITS HISTORY;

21 K. THE MOTTO, TITLE OR PHRASE TO BE INCORPORATED IN THE
22 HERALDIC ITEMS AND DEVICES MAY BE IN THE NATIONAL
23 LANGUAGE OR IN ANY LOCAL DIALECT; AND

24
25 L. THESE HERALDIC ITEMS AND DEVICES SHALL NOT BE
26 REVISED OR CHANGED MORE THAN ONCE EVERY TEN (10)
27 YEARS.

28
29 SEC. 6. Section 46 of Republic Act No. 8491 is hereby amended to read as
30 follows:

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32 "Section 46. All government [offices] **ENTITIES**, including the military, are
33 hereby ordered to purchase all [h]Heraldic [i]Items and [d]Devices from
34 manufacturers accredited and authorized by the [Institute] **NHCP**.

35
36 **ENGRAVERS OR MANUFACTURERS SHALL APPLY FOR ANNUAL**
37 **ACCREDITATION AT THE NHCP.**

38
39 Such items and devices shall be subject to inspection by the purchasing
40 agency's internal inspector and the COA representative using the design and
41 specifications approved by the Office of the President or by the Congress,
42 through the [Institute] **NHCP**.

1 **ANY VIOLATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8491 OR ITS**
2 **IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS SHALL BE A GROUND**
3 **FOR SUSPENSION, REVOCATION OR NON-RENEWAL OF**
4 **ACCREDITATION.**

5
6 SEC. 7. A new Section 46-A is hereby inserted to read as follows:

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8 **"SECTION 46-A. HERALDIC AND VEXILLARY DESIGNS OR ITEMS,**
9 **SHALL NOT BE USED OR EMPLOYED FOR NUMISMATIC, PHILATELIC,**
10 **ADVERTISEMENT OR INFOMERCIAL, OR ANY INFORMATIVE**
11 **PURPOSES UNLESS DULY APPROVED IN WRITING BY THE NHCP."**

12
13 SEC. 8. Section 50 of Republic Act No. 8491 is hereby amended to read as
14 follows:

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16 "Section 50. Any person WHO or juridical entity which violates any of the
17 provisions of this Act shall, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not less
18 than Five thousand pesos (PHP 5,000.00) nor more than Twenty Thousand
19 Pesos (PHP 20,000.00) or by imprisonment [for] OF not more than one (1)
20 year, or both such fine and imprisonment, at the discretion of the court:
21 Provided, That for any second and additional offenses, both fine and
22 imprisonment shall always be imposed: *Provided, further* That in case the
23 violation is committed by a juridical person, its President or Chief Executive
24 Officer thereof shall be liable.

25
26 **THE NHCP MAY PRESCRIBE IN THE IMPLEMENTING RULES AND**
27 **REGULATIONS OTHER ACTS OR OMISSIONS WHICH SHALL BE**
28 **DEEMED DISRESPECTFUL, AND THUS PROHIBITED, RELATIVE TO**
29 **OFFICIAL SEALS AND OTHER HERALDIC ITEMS AND DEVICES.**

30
31 SEC. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The NHCP shall issue the
32 necessary rules and regulations implementing the provisions of this Act within sixty
33 (60) days from its effectivity. The NHCP shall submit its rules and regulations to the
34 Office of the President and the Congress of the Philippines.

35
36 SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.*- Any portion or provision of this Act that maybe
37 declared unconstitutional or invalid shall not have the effect of nullifying the other
38 portions or provisions hereof as long as such remaining portion or provision can still
39 subsist and be given effect.

1 SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws,decrees, executive orders, rules and
2 regulations, other issuances,part or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of
3 this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

4 SEC. 12. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
5 its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general
6 circulation.

Approved,