

64

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **21280**

Introduced by Congressmen Aniag, Jr., Lopez (Jaime), Isidro,
and Mercado (Rogaciano), Padilla and the
Members of Committee on Education and
Culture

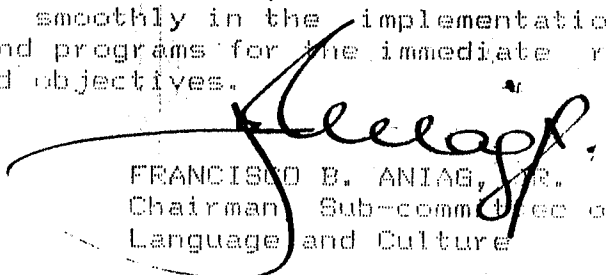
Explanatory Note

This Bill seeks to implement Section 9, Article XIV of the 1986 Constitution which provides that "The Congress shall establish a National Language Commission composed of Representatives of various regions and disciplines which shall undertake, coordinate and promote researches for the development, propagation, and preservation of Filipino and other Languages."

The creation of a National Language Commission is the first major step towards the attainment of the Government's objectives to further develop and enrich Filipino Language on the basis of existing Filipino as a medium of official communication and as a Language of Instruction in the educational system (Section 6, Article XIV of the Constitution).

The establishment of a government body clothed with necessary powers, duties and functions and manned by people with proven competence and dedication will ensure the attainment of the above objectives and the realization of an equally nobler aim - the national development, it being an established fact that Language is an effective instrument for national progress and a source of national pride.

This Bill, therefore, seeks to create a government body known as the Commission on Filipino Language with complete fiscal and administrative autonomy. With assured funds and power of discretion, the Commission can act independently and smoothly in the implementation of its plans, policies and programs for the immediate realization of the above-stated objectives.


FRANCISCO B. ANIAG, JR.
Chairman, Sub-committee on National
Language and Culture

LANGUAGE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PROVISION OF THE
CONSTITUTION, PRESCRIBING ITS POWERS AND
FUNCTIONS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"

- over -

81

54
(2)

CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES }
Third Regular Session }

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 21280

INTRODUCED BY CONGRESSMEN ANIAG, JR., LOPEZ (J.),
ISIDRO, MERCADO (R.M.), PADILLA, JOAQUIN, AQUINO
(F.), AND THE MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE ON EDUCA-
TION AND CULTURE, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 415

AN ACT CREATING THE COMMISSION ON FILIPINO
LANGUAGE IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE PRO-
VISION OF THE CONSTITUTION, PRESCRIBING
ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

*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
2 the “Commission on Filipino Language Act.”

3 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* — Consistent with the
4 constitutional mandate, it shall be the policy of the Govern-
5 ment to ensure and promote the evolution and further
6 development and enrichment of the Philippine national
7 language known as Filipino, on the basis of existing Philip-
8 pine and other languages. To this end, the Government
9 shall take the necessary steps to carry out the said policy.

10 SEC. 3. *Creation of the Commission on Filipino*
11 *Language.* — There is hereby created a commission known

1 as the Commission on Filipino Language which shall under-
2 take, coordinate, and promote researches for the develop-
3 ment, propagation and preservation of Filipino and other
4 Philippine languages, and shall be directly under the Office
5 of the President of the Philippines.

6 SEC. 4. *Definition of Terms.* — As used in this Act,
7 the following are defined as follows:

8 (a) *Commission* — refers to the Commission on
9 Filipino Language.

10 (b) *Chairman* — refers to the Chairman of the Commis-
11 sion.

12 (c) *Filipino* — refers to the national language of the
13 Philippines.

14 (d) *Philippine languages* — refers to the native lang-
15 uages of the Philippines.

16 (e) *Major language* — a major language shall mean
17 a language which is spoken and used by no less than one-
18 eighth (1/8) of all the Filipinos. This shall be based on the
19 census to be made by the National Census and Statistics
20 Office.

21 (f) *Other languages* — refers to foreign languages
22 either official or not as long as they have influenced native
23 language and culture to a certain degree.

24 (g) *Ethnolinguistic regions* — refers to certain geo-
25 graphical areas where particular groups of people speak
26 a distinct language of their own.

1 (h) *Disciplines* — refers to various fields of learning.

2 (i) *Auxiliary language* — refers to particular languages
3 spoken in certain places which are to support or help a
4 national and/or official language in its assigned function.

5 SEC. 5. *Powers, Functions and Duties of the Commis-*
6 *sion.* — The Commission, subject to the provisions of Sec-
7 tions 6 to 7, Article XIV of the Constitution, shall have
8 the following powers, duties and functions:

9 (a) Formulate policies, plans and programs to ensure
10 the further development, enrichment, propagation and
11 preservation of Filipino and other Philippine languages;

12 (b) Promulgate rules and regulations and set standards
13 and guidelines to ensure compliance with its policies, plans
14 and programs;

15 (c) Undertake, promote, contract or empower the
16 gathering of data, researches, and studies, that are necessary
17 in the reforms, modernization, and standardization of
18 Filipino and other Philippine languages. This will include
19 collation works for possible incorporation into a multi-
20 dialect dictionary, existing grammatical expressions, and
21 other words, phrases, idioms, quotations, sayings and others
22 including words from foreign languages now commonly
23 used or included in the *lingua franca*;

24 (d) Encourage the establishment of coordinating
25 units in all branches and agencies of the Government, as well

1 as regional coordinating centers, area or regional offices in
2 all parts of the country that will undertake the implementa-
3 tion of the policies, plans and programs of the Commission
4 in their respective localities;

5 (e) Call on any department, bureau, office, agency
6 or instrumentality of the Government and on private entities
7 and organizations for cooperation and assistance in the per-
8 formance of its functions, duties and responsibilities;

9 (f) Conduct public hearings, conferences, seminars
10 and other group discussions to determine and decide the
11 problems and issues involving the development, propagation
12 and preservation of Filipino and other Philippine languages;

13 (g) Formulate and adopt guidelines, standards and
14 reporting systems for monitoring of its activities and per-
15 formance in the national and local levels and shall prepare
16 and submit to the Office of the President and the Congress
17 of the Philippines a yearly report of all its activities and
18 progress in connection with the implementation of its
19 policies, plans and programs;

20 (h) Appoint, subject to the provisions of existing
21 laws, its officials and employees, and such other personnel
22 as are necessary in the effective performance of its functions,
23 duties and responsibilities, and to dismiss them for cause;

24 (i) Organize or reorganize the structure of the Com-
25 mission, create or abolish positions, change the designation

1 of existing positions to meet changing conditions or as the
2 need therefor arises: *Provided*, That such changes shall not
3 affect the employment status of the incumbents, reduce their
4 ranks, decrease their salaries nor result in separating them
5 from the services;

6 (j) Establish guidelines and standards for linguistic
7 forms and expressions of all official communications,
8 publications, school textbooks and other teaching and read-
9 ing materials;

10 (k) Undertake the translation in Filipino of all his-
11 torical or literary works or pieces, laws and other foreign
12 educational materials which it may deem necessary for
13 education and other purposes;

14 (l) Perform such other activities which are necessary
15 for the effective performance of the abovementioned func-
16 tions, duties, powers and responsibilities; and

17 (m) Conduct studies and researches to promote the
18 evolution, development, enrichment and standardization
19 of Filipino on the basis of existing Filipino languages and
20 other languages and submit its report and recommendation
21 to Congress for whatever action the latter may take, pur-
22 suant to Section 6, Article XIV of the Constitution.

23 SEC. 6. *Composition of the Commission.* — The Com-
24 mission shall be composed of fifteen (15) members (including

1 the Chairman), eleven (11) representing the ethnolinguistic
2 regions and four (4) representing the disciplines.

3 SEC. 7. *Appointment Qualification of Commissioners.*

4 — The Commissioners shall be appointed by the President
5 of the Philippines with the consent of the Commission on
6 Appointments from the list of nominees to be submitted
7 by different ethnolinguistic regions and disciplines in the
8 country. The President of the Philippines shall appoint
9 from the Commissioners the Chairman with the consent of
10 the Commission on Appointments. In the absence of the
11 Chairman, the Commissioners shall choose from among
12 themselves a temporary Chairman.

13 No one shall be appointed as a Commissioner unless
14 he is a Filipino citizen, at least twenty-five (25) years old,
15 (provided that the Chairman should be at least thirty-five
16 (35) years old), morally upright, and known for his know-
17 ledge and competence in the language of the ethnolinguistic
18 region or discipline that he represents.

19 SEC. 8. *Terms of Office.* — The Commissioners shall
20 serve for a term of seven (7) years who may be reappointed
21 by the President of the Philippines with the consent of the
22 Commission on Appointments: *Provided, That*, of those
23 first appointed, five (5) Commissioners shall hold office
24 for seven (7) years, five (5) for five (5) years, and the last five
25 (5) for three (3) years.

1 SEC. 9. *Vacancy.* — In case vacancy occurs prior to
2 the expiration of the term of office of a Commissioner,
3 the replacement shall serve only the unexpired portion
4 of the term of office that was vacated. The Commission
5 shall, within thirty (30) days from the date a vacancy occurs,
6 recommend a replacement to the President of the Philippines
7 from the list of nominees submitted by the particular ethno-
8 linguistic region or discipline affected by the vacancy, subject
9 to the confirmation of the Commission on Appointments:
10 *Provided*, That in the event the Commission fails to make
11 such recommendation, the vacancy shall be filled by the
12 President of the Philippines, also from said list of nominees
13 and with the consent of the Commission on Appointments.

14 SEC. 10. *Meeting.* — The Commission shall meet regular-
15 ly at least once a month. A majority shall constitute a
16 quorum for the transaction of the business.

17 SEC. 11. *Director General.* — There shall be a Director
18 General and two (2) Deputy Directors General who shall be
19 appointed by the President of the Philippines upon the rec-
20 ommendation of the Commission and with the consent of the
21 Commission on Appointments for a term of seven (7) years.
22 The Director General and the Deputy Directors General
23 shall be responsible to the Commission which shall determine
24 their respective powers, functions, duties, and compensation.

25 SEC. 12. *The Secretariat.* — There shall be a Secretariat

1 to be headed by the Director General. Initially, the staff and
2 employees of the Institute of Philippine Languages shall
3 constitute the nucleus of the staff and employees of the
4 Secretariat. The functions, duties, and compensation of the
5 personnel shall be determined by the Commission upon
6 recommendation of the Director General.

7 SEC. 13. *Organizational Structure of the Commission.*

8 — The Commission shall determine its organizational struc-
9 ture: *Provided*, That the regular professional and technical
10 personnel of the Commission shall be exempt from the rules
11 and regulations of the Office of Compensation and Position
12 Classification and/or eligibility requirement of the Civil
13 Service Commission.

14 SEC. 14. *Compensation.* — The Chairman and the mem-
15 bers of the Commission shall receive the same salary as the
16 Chairman and members, respectively, of the constitutional
17 commissions, which shall not be decreased during their term
18 of office.

19 SEC. 15. *Appropriation.* — The funding requirements
20 necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be
21 charged to the current fiscal year appropriations of the
22 Institute of Philippine Languages. Thereafter, such sum as
23 may be necessary is hereby authorized to be appropriated
24 in the General Appropriations Act of the year following
25 its enactment into law.

1 SEC. 16. *Transfer of Existing Agency.* — All personnel,
2 records, assets, equipment, funds and properties belonging
3 to the Institute of the Philippine Languages under Execu-
4 tive Order No. 117, are hereby transferred to the Commis-
5 sion, which shall execute, administer, dispose of and handle
6 such assets, properties, and appropriations in accordance
7 with the provisions of this Act. All researches, dictionaries,
8 publications, and other intellectual outputs of the Institute
9 are likewise deemed transferred to the Commission. The
10 Commission shall effect the transfer herein provided in a
11 manner that will ensure the least disruption of ongoing
12 programs of the Institute. The qualified and necessary
13 personnel of the Institute shall be transferred and be ab-
14 sorbed by the Commission: *Provided*, That in the period
15 prior to the actual assumption of duties by the Commission
16 and its functioning as such, all officers and employees of the
17 Institute shall continue to exercise all their functions and
18 discharge all their duties and responsibilities until ordered
19 otherwise by the Commission, at which event the Institute
20 is deemed abolished.

21 SEC. 17. *Separability Clause.* — If any provision of this
22 Act shall be held invalid, the remainder shall not be affected
23 thereby.

24 SEC. 18. *Repealing Clause.* — All laws, decrees, orders,
25 letters of instruction, rules and regulations or parts thereof

1 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
2 repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

3 SEC. 19. *Effectivity.* — This Act shall take effect
4 upon its approval.

Approved,

O