

SENATE
S. No. 2639

'11 JAN 18 P2:41

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article 14, Section 6 of the 1987 Constitution provides, to wit:

"Sec. 6. The national language of the Philippines is Filipino. As it evolves, it shall be further developed and enriched on the basis of existing Philippine and other languages

Subject to provisions of law and as the Congress may deem appropriate, the Government shall take steps to initiate and sustain the use of Filipino as a medium of official communication and as language of instruction in the educational system "

Moreover, Article 14, Section 7, provides:

Sec. 7. For purposes of communication and instruction, the official languages of the Philippines are Filipino and, until otherwise provided by law, English.

It has been observed that there has been a widespread emergence of restaurants and other specialty shops in the country bearing signages in foreign languages or characters other than English. This is due to the migration of foreign nationals to the country, and their settlement into different communities within the country. As a means of livelihood, these foreign nationals establish businesses which cater primarily to the needs and wants of their fellow migrants.

It should be remembered that, although these restaurants and shops are meant mainly to provide for the basic necessities of these foreigners, it is deemed irreverent that we Filipinos are left to wonder what these signages mean and what these businesses are for. In effect, we are being alienated in our very own country, and we are left to figure out for ourselves what these establishments are.

It is incumbent upon the State to instill and maintain a sense of nationalism among the dwellers living within its jurisdiction, whether they are Filipinos or migrants. We, as Filipinos, should never be subjected to the alienation and seclusion that we are experiencing due to this phenomenon.

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


MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Senator

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



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RECEIVED

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AN ACT
AMENDING SECTION 447(a)(3)(iv) OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, REQUIRING ALL SIGNS, SIGNBOARDS, OR BILLBOARDS WRITTEN IN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH TO BEAR CORRESPONDING FILIPINO OR ENGLISH TRANSLATION

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

SECTION 1. The Local Government Code of the Philippines, Book III, Title 2, Chapter III, Article 3, Section 447(a)(3)(iv) is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 447(a)(3)(iv). Regulate the display of and fix the license fees for signs, signboards, or billboards at the place or places where the profession or business advertised thereby is, in whole or in part, conducted. **SAID SIGNS, SIGNBOARDS, OR BILLBOARDS SHALL BE WRITTEN IN FILIPINO OR ENGLISH, OR, IF WRITTEN IN A FOREIGN LANGUAGE OTHER THAN ENGLISH, SHALL BEAR CORRESPONDING FILIPINO OR ENGLISH TRANSLATION"**;

SECTION 2. *Separability Clause.* If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 3. *Repealing Clause.* Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to, or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SECTION 4. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in THE Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,