



LEGISLATIVE RESEARCH SERVICE

QUICK NOTES

Second Regular Session, 19th Congress

Public Hearing of the Committee on Culture and the Arts, Joint with the Committees on Civil Service, Government Reorganization and Professional Regulation; Foreign Relations; Ways and Means; Environment, Natural Resources and Climate Change; Higher, Technical and Vocational Education; Basic Education; Sports; Tourism; Public Works; and Finance

Chairperson: Sen. Loren Legarda

30 April 2024, Tuesday, 9:00 AM, Sen. Recto and Laurel Rooms, Senate

Re: Bills Protecting and Promoting Philippine Culture

- **S. No. 244—Sen. Loren Legarda
Sen. Joel Villanueva**
- **S. No. 490—Sen. Loren Legarda**
- **S. No. 492—Sen. Loren Legarda
Sen. Joel Villanueva**
- **S. No. 552—Sen. Pia S. Cayetano**
- **S. No. 624—Sen. Loren Legarda
Sen. Joel Villanueva**
- **S. No. 836—Sen. Loren Legarda**
- **S. No. 841—Sen. Loren Legarda**
- **S. No. 1088—Sen. Jinggoy Ejercito Estrada**
- **S. No. 1114—Sen. Loren Legarda**
- **S. No. 1116—Sen. Loren Legarda**
- **S. No. 1270—Sen. Ramon Bong Revilla Jr.**
- **S. No. 1338—Sen. Loren Legarda**
- **S. No. 1340—Sen. Loren Legarda**
- **S. No. 1471—Sen. Manuel “Lito” Lapid**
- **S. No. 1523—Sen. Ramon Bong Revilla Jr.**
- **S. No. 1680—Sen. Manuel “Lito” Lapid**
- **S. No. 1807—Sen. Jinggoy Estrada**
- **S. No. 1866—Sen. Loren Legarda**
- **S. No. 1947—Sen. Imee R. Marcos**
- **S. No. 2086—Sen. Mark A. Villar**
- **S. No. 2089—Sen. Mark A. Villar**
- **S. No. 2130—Sen. Loren Legarda**
- **S. No. 2324—Sen. Loren Legarda**
- **S. No. 2365—Sen. Ramon Bong Revilla Jr.**
- **S. No. 2563—Sen. Joseph Victor “JV” G. Ejercito**

- **S. No. 2583—Sen. Loren Legarda
Sen. Nancy Binay**
- **H. No. 6069—Rep. Yedda Marie Romualdez, et. al.**
- **H. No. 7986—Rep. Lani Mercado-Revilla, et. al.**
- **H. No. 8064—Rep. Rufus Rodriguez**
- **H. No. 8664—Rep. Joel Chua, et. al.**
- **H. No. 8665—Reps. Cari, Romulo, Co (E.), et. al.**
- **H. No. 8466—Rep. Marlyn Primicias-Agabas, et al.**

Background

- Preserving Philippine culture is a vital ongoing endeavor aimed at safeguarding the diverse traditions, languages, arts, and practices that shape the Filipino identity. With a complex history of colonization, the Filipino culture reflects a rich fusion of influences from Spain, the United States, and Japan, including other Asian cultures and more.
- Government bodies, such as the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) and the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP), play important roles in preserving and promoting Filipino culture. Their efforts, alongside community initiatives, education, and international recognition, contribute to the dynamic process of cultural preservation.
- The proposed measures, therefore, are crucial for protecting and preserving Philippine culture, ensuring that future generations can continue to celebrate and connect with their heritage. It is a collective effort to cherish and uphold the vibrant tapestry of Filipino cultural heritage.

Highlights of the Bills

1. Establishment/Creation of Offices

- 1.1 Institute for Living Traditions** under **SBN 624** – Creation of the Linangan ng Likhang-Bayan to Ensure the Protection, Promotion, and Development of the Country's Communal Traditions, amending for the Purpose Republic Act No. 10066 or the National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009.

The Institute will function as the sole institute for technical, basic, and higher education, both formal and non-formal. It shall be attached to the NCCA for policy and program implementation with sole emphasis on the traditional and indigenous knowledge systems, functioning as a significant hub and research facility dedicated to safeguarding, advancing, and nurturing the communal traditions of the Philippines.

- 1.2 Department of Culture** under **SBNs 490 and 552** – Restructuring of the current NCCA into the Department of Culture (Kagawaran ng Kultura). This department will act as the principal entity within the Executive branch of the national government responsible for formulating, planning, coordinating, implementing, and administrating policies related to culture and the arts in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Constitution and State policies.

- 1.3 **Music Development Council** under **SBN 836** – Creation of the Music Development Council of the Philippines under the Office of the President with the goal of enhancing the music industry's role in enriching our cultural scenery, advancing societal progress, and fostering economic growth.
2. **Venice Biennale** under **SBN 492** – Institutionalizing Philippine Participation in the International Exhibitions of the Venice Biennale. To fulfill this mandate, the Philippine Arts in Venice Biennale Coordinating Committee (PAVB-CC) within the NCCA is established to oversee the country's participation in the said exhibitions in Venice, Italy. It shall act as coordinator and commissioner for the Philippine Pavilion in the Biennale Exhibitions.
3. **Preservation of Heritage**
 - 3.1 **Culinary Heritage** under **SBN 244** – Providing for the Development and Preservation of Philippine Culinary Heritage. It establishes the Committee on Philippine Gastronomy and Culinary Heritage, tasked with crafting and disseminating policies, plans, and programs to advance, enrich, share, advertise, and safeguard Filipino cuisine, culinary heritage, heirloom foods, and gastronomy.
 - 3.2 **Indigenous Games/Sports** under **SBNs 1340, 1088, 1523, 2089, 2563, & HBN 8466** – Preserving the Indigenous Sports and Games of the Philippines by organizing a yearly regional and national competitions for indigenous games.
 - 3.3 **Traditional Folk Arts** under **SBN 1114** – Mandates regional museums to function as information and cultural hubs, providing extensive and significant collections of local archaeological discoveries, artworks, traditional folk arts, and other local cultural gems. Additionally, in collaboration with the NCCA, they will lead efforts to conserve, preserve, and promote the cultural heritage of the Schools of Living Tradition within their areas.
4. **Baybayin** under **SBNs 1270, 1680, 1807, 1866, 2086, and HBN 6069** – Protection, preservation, conservation and promotion of the "Baybayin" script through the following measures: (a) requiring food manufacturers to include "Baybayin" scripts and their translations on containers or labels; (b) mandating Local Government Units (LGUs) to utilize "Baybayin" scripts in their signage for street names, public facilities, and other purposes; (c) compelling newspaper and magazine publishers to incorporate "Baybayin" translations of their official names; (d) instructing the appropriate government agency to disseminate knowledge and information about the "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) encouraging relevant government and private entities and offices to raise awareness of the declaration of "Baybayin" as the national writing system by conducting staff training for the proper handling of these significant documents.
5. **Solemn Declaration of Ph Independence (Agosto Uno): SBN 2365 and HBN 7986** – Declaration of August 1 of each year, a special working holiday, as the "Promulgation of the Solemn Declaration of Philippine Independence Day." This

is to honor and remember the historic moment when the declaration of Philippine Independence was proclaimed during the Bacoor Assembly in Bacoor, Cavite on August 1, 1898.

6. Declaration of Cultural/National Heritage Zones

- 6.1 **Cagayan De Oro River: SBNs 1947, 2130, & HB 8064** – Declaration of the Cagayan de Oro river and its surrounding areas within Cagayan de Oro City, Misamis Oriental Province, as a cultural heritage zone to protect the cultural legacy and historical significance of the said river and its vicinity, encouraging cultural tourism and creating a chance for upcoming generations to value and glean insights from the city's past.
- 6.2 **Quiapo District: SBNs 1471, 2324, & HBN 8664** – Declaration of the Quiapo District in Manila as a heritage zone as defined under Republic Act No. 10066, also known as the "National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009." As such, it will receive priority development from the Department of Tourism (DOT), working in conjunction with the City of Manila's local government, the NCCA, the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP), Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA), the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), and other relevant government bodies.

7. Local Studies/Cultural Centers

- 7.1 **Local Studies Centers** under **SBN 1116** – Creation of Local Studies Centers within all state colleges and universities (SUCs) specifically dedicated to various cultural communities. These centers will function as research hubs emphasizing grassroots initiatives. Their primary goal is to identify, acknowledge, record, protect, uphold, and champion local history, folklore, language, and other facets of cultural heritage using academic, scientific, and scholarly methods.
 - 7.2 **Aklan Piña Museum and Cultural Center** under **SBN 2583** – Establishment of the Aklan Piña museum and cultural center in Kalibo, Aklan dedicated to preserving and promoting Aklan piña handloom weaving as a vital part of the Aklanon culture.
 - 7.3 **Baybay City Cultural Center and Museum** under **HBN 8665** – Establishment of a cultural center and museum named the Baybay City Cultural Center and Museum in the City of Baybay, Province of Leyte.
8. **Waling-Waling** under **SBN 841** – Declaration of the Waling-waling orchid as a national flower, alongside the Sampaguita, which was designated as the national flower of the Philippines in Proclamation No. 652 on February 1, 1943, by Governor-General Frank Murphy.
 9. **Rondalla** under **SBN 1338** – Institutionalization of a formal framework for offering rondalla training courses designed for music educators. It mandates the Department of Education (DepEd) to incorporate funding for rondalla-related programs and activities, such as - training, instruction, pedagogy, and performance ensembles, in its yearly budget.

Possible Points for Discussion

1. How can the Institute for Living Traditions strike a balance between preserving traditional practices and adapting them to modern contexts? What innovative approaches and collaborations can help ensure the relevance and sustainability of living traditions amidst evolving cultural landscapes?

What strategies are most effective in educating both academic and non-academic audiences about the significance of cultural heritage preservation? How can such education initiatives instill a sense of responsibility and ownership among the general public towards safeguarding cultural heritage for future generations?

2. Will the transformation of the NCCA into a full-fledged department result in a more streamlined and effective approach to culture and arts-related policies, ensuring they receive adequate attention and resources without being overshadowed by other governmental priorities? More than the cost it would entail, what specific advantages and opportunities might arise from this organizational restructuring?
3. In what ways can the Music Development Council of the Philippines fulfill its dual mandate of preserving traditional Filipino music and nurturing the creation of new, innovative music? How can it support emerging musicians while also honoring the rich musical heritage of the Philippines?
4. How does the country's participation in prestigious events like the Venice Biennale, which showcases Philippine cultural heritage and contemporary art on the global stage, foster meaningful cultural exchange and diplomacy? What tangible benefits and long-term impact does such participation yield for Philippine culture and international relations?
5. What role do these regional and national indigenous sports and games competitions play in fostering pride, identity, and community cohesion among indigenous peoples?
6. What are the anticipated impacts of declaring Quiapo District and CDO River as national/cultural heritage zones on local businesses, residents, and tourism? Will the activities in these areas be now limited? How can stakeholders mitigate potential challenges and capitalize on opportunities to ensure both the sustainable economic development and the preservation of cultural heritage, in these areas?
7. How will the establishment of the Aklan Piña Museum and Cultural Center contribute to the economic empowerment of local artisans and weavers? In what ways can it help create sustainable livelihood opportunities through the production and sale of Aklan Piña products, while also leveraging cultural tourism to drive economic growth in the region?
8. In what ways can digital initiatives, such as online exhibitions, virtual tours, and digital archives, democratize access to cultural content, particularly for audiences unable to visit museums in person? How might these initiatives broaden cultural

appreciation and engagement among diverse audiences, including those in remote or underserved areas?