

SENATE

S.B. NO. 3276

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Introduced by Senator Legarda

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

In October 20, 2010, the United Nations General Assembly (UN GA) proclaimed the first week of February of every year as the "World Interfaith Harmony Week between all religions, faiths and beliefs," through resolution A/RES/65/5.

The rationale behind this UN resolution, that of the need to find mutual understanding among people of different faiths and belief systems, finds resonance in the Philippines where religious differences have hindered nation building and the promotion of peace.

In light of the vast diversity of faiths and belief systems in the country, it is in the best interests of the Filipino people to promote civil and non-violent interreligious and intercultural dialogues. These dialogues will empower our democratic ideals and engender an environment conducive to the prosperity of all.

This bill, as it concurs with the resolution of the UN GA, seeks to promote cooperation and genuine understanding among all Filipinos, in order to establish a country of empathy and a culture of peace.

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

  
**LOREN LEGARDA**  
Senator

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPINES )  
Third Regular Session )

SEP 1 1978

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**AN ACT**  
**DECLARING THE FIRST WEEK OF FEBRUARY OF EVERY YEAR AS "WORLD INTERFAITH HARMONY WEEK" IN THE ENTIRE COUNTRY AND MANDATING ITS OBSERVANCE BY THE DIFFERENT GOVERNMENT AGENCIES**

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

**SECTION 1.** The first week of February of every year is declared as "World Interfaith Harmony Week" in the entire country. All government agencies and instrumentalities, including government-owned and -controlled corporations as well as local government units, are hereby mandated to carry out the observance of activities designed to advance the message of interfaith harmony and goodwill in accordance with religious traditions and practices.

**SEC. 2.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

**Approved,**