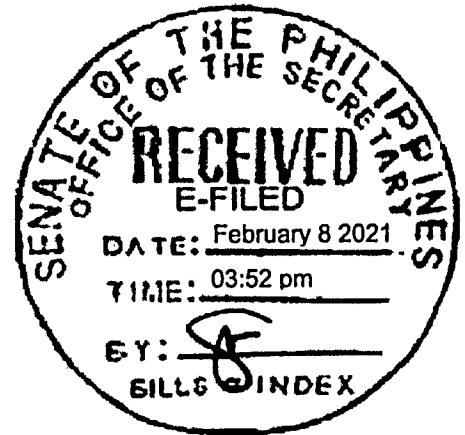


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )

SENATE

S. No. 2043



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Introduced by SENATOR RICHARD J. GORDON

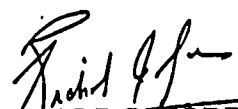
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**AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING A NEW FILIPINO GESTURE OF RESPECT,  
GOODWILL, AND PRAISE**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

We Filipinos are known for our hospitality and goodwill. We always take our time to give a cheerful greeting to the people we know, from a simple handshake to a homely "beso-beso". In the same light, we also like to show our affection and praise to those who deserve it, may it be a pat on the back, a high-five, or even a hug with our arms wide-open. Unfortunately, the pandemic has changed a lot of our ways and we must now adjust to the "new normal", one where limited social contact is needed if we are to protect not just ourselves but also everyone about us.

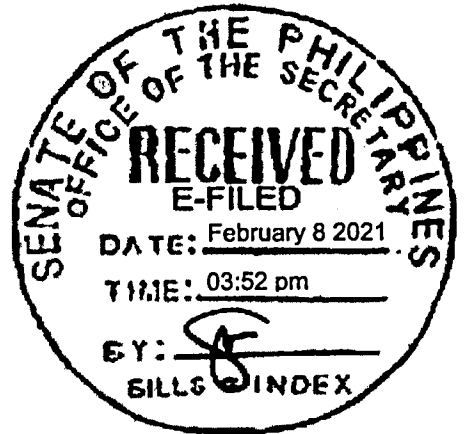
Numerous studies have shown that respiratory viruses, especially COVID-19 can be passed by shaking hands and other physical contact. Thus we must resort to other ways to greet one another or to show our affection, respect, and praise to the people around us. This bill aims to establish a new Filipino gesture, one that would signify goodwill, respect, and praise while observing proper health protocols. The new normal should not be the end to the Filipino hospitality and goodwill, rather it must be an improvement of these Filipino traits. It is for the reasons stated above that the passage of this measure is earnestly sought.

  
**RICHARD J. GORDON**  
Senator

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
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**AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING A NEW FILIPINO GESTURE OF RESPECT,  
GOODWILL, AND PRAISE**

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

- 1 **SEC. 1. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby the declared policy of the State protect  
2 and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among  
3 them especially during this pandemic. The State shall also promote measures to  
4 ensure that proper health protocols are observed in everyday social conduct.
- 5 **SEC. 2. Coverage.** – This law shall cover all Filipino citizens and other persons in the  
6 Philippines.
- 7 **SEC. 3. Way of Greetings** – A new and safe gesture of respect, goodwill, and praise  
8 shall be observed and performed through the simple act of gracefully laying the palm  
9 of the right hand over the center of one’s chest while simultaneously lowering the  
10 head.
- 11 **SEC. 4. Information Dissemination** – All government agencies and  
12 instrumentalities shall allocate their respective resources for information dissemination  
13 and to encourage the practice of the new gesture.
- 14 **SEC. 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations** – Within thirty (30) days from the  
15 approval of this Act, the Department of Health, in consultation with the Department  
16 of Education, National Commission for Culture and the Arts, Presidential  
17 Communications Operations Office, Philippine Information Agency, and other

1 concerned stakeholders, formulate and issue the implementing rules and regulations  
2 of this Act.

3 **SEC. 14. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, presidential decrees or issuances, executive  
4 orders, letters of instruction, administrative orders, rules and regulations contrary to  
5 or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified or  
6 amended accordingly.

7 **SEC. 15. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete  
8 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

9 *Approved,*