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**SENATE**

S.B. No. 2521

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(In substitution of Senate Bill 1059)

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Prepared jointly by the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture, and Finance with Senators Angara, Flavio, Drilon and the members of the Committees on Education, Arts and Culture and Finance as authors

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**"AN ACT DECLARING THE SHEIKH KARIMUL MAKHDUM MOSQUE, CONSIDERED AS THE FIRST AND OLDEST MUSLIM HOUSE OF PRAYER OR MOSQUE IN THE PHILIPPINES, AT TUBIG, INDANGAN, SIMUNUL, PROVINCE OF TAWI-TAWI, AS A NATIONAL SHRINE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"**

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

1           **SECTION 1. *Statement of Policy.*** It is hereby declared to be the policy of the  
2 State to preserve historical sites, monuments and other relics, which represent the  
3 Filipino heritage and culture of the nation and shall be under the protection of the  
4 State.

5           **SEC. 2. *Declaration as National Shrine.*** Consistent with the Constitutional  
6 mandate to conserve, promote and popularize the nation's historical and cultural  
7 heritage, the Sheik Karimul Makhdum Mosque located at Tubig Indangan, Simunul,  
8 Province of Tawi-Tawi, which was constructed in 1380 A.D. and considered as the first  
9 and oldest Muslim House of Prayer or Mosque in the Philippines is hereby declared a  
10 national shrine to underscore the immense contribution of Islamic faith to the  
11 enrichment, vibrance and diversity of our culture and civilization.

12           **SEC. 3. *Power of the NHI to Issue Rules.*** For this purpose, the National  
13 Historical Institute ("NHI") shall exercise supervision over the preservation of the

1 aforesaid site and shall issue the necessary rules and regulations to effectuate the  
2 preceding sections of this Act.

3 **SEC. 4. Appropriation.** The necessary funding for the purposes of this Act,  
4 shall be provided for in the annual appropriations for the NHI, which shall, henceforth  
5 issue the appropriate disbursements.

6 **SEC. 5. Fund-raising Program.** In order to afford the people an opportunity to  
7 participate in financing the preservation, reconstruction and/or rehabilitation of the  
8 shrine, the NHI is hereby authorized to organize and undertake a national fund  
9 campaign for the purpose of raising funds from private sources.

10 **SEC. 6. Effectivity.** This Act shall take effect upon approval thereof.

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12 *Approved,*