


Congress of the Republic of the Philippines  
**SENATE OF THE PHILIPPINES**  
Pasay City

OFFICE

10 AUG 11 P2:35

**FIFTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**SENATE BILL NO. 2380**

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator Edgardo J. Angara

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Pursuant to the mandate of the Constitution, the Congress of the Philippines enacted Republic Act No. 7104 creating the Commission on the Filipino Language, which is now also known as *Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino* (KWF), in 1991. Under said law, KWF is tasked to undertake, coordinate and promote researches for the development, propagation, and preservation of Filipino as the national language of the Philippines, and other Philippine languages.

After almost two decades since the creation of the KWF, there is an imperative need to further strengthen the same as the only constitutionally-mandated cultural agency of the Government, with the end in view of keeping it at pace with the evolution of Filipino and other Philippine languages. KWF should be governed by a continuing body with officials having a term of office akin to that of the constitutional commissioners, as well as be given the authority to enter into agreements with other government agencies, as well as private institutions to raise funds for the Commission in order to promote the Filipino Language.

Passage of this bill is therefore earnestly sought.

  
EDGARDO J. ANGARA

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
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SENATE

S.B. No. **2380**

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Introduced by Senator EDGARDO J. ANGARA

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AN ACT  
STRENGTHENING THE COMMISSION ON THE FILIPINO LANGUAGE AS A  
CONSTITUTIONALLY MANDATED AGENCY, AMENDING FOR THIS  
PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7104

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 1 of Republic Act No. 7104 shall be amended to read as  
2 follows:

3  
4 "SECTION 1. *Short Title.* — This Act shall be known as  
5 "STRENGTHENING THE Commission on the Filipino Language Act."

6  
7 SEC. 2. Section 4 of Republic Act No. 7104 shall be amended to read as follows:

8  
9 "SECTION 4. *Creation of the [Commission on the Filipino*  
10 *Language] KOMISYON NG WIKANG FILIPINO.* — There is hereby  
11 created a commission to be known as the [Commission on the Filipino  
12 Language] **KOMISYON NG WIKANG FILIPINO**, composed of  
13 representatives of various ethnolinguistic groups and different disciplines,  
14 which shall undertake, coordinate and promote researches for the  
15 development, propagation and preservation of Filipino and other Philippine  
16 languages and which shall be **AN INDEPENDENT GOVERNMENT**  
17 **AGENCY** directly under the Office of the President, **AND ATTACHED**  
18 **TO THE NATIONAL COMMISSION ON CULTURE AND THE**  
19 **ARTS (NCCA) FOR POLICY AND PROGRAM COORDINATION.**"

1  
2 SEC. 3. Section 6 of Republic Act No. 7104 shall be amended to read as follows:  
3

4 **“SECTION 6. *Appointment and Qualifications of Commissioners.***

5 — [The commissioners shall be appointed by the President, with the consent  
6 of the Commission on Appointments, from the list of nominees to be  
7 submitted by the different ethnolinguistic regions in the country. The  
8 President shall appoint from the eleven (11) commissioners the Chairman  
9 and the two (2) full-time commissioners. The President shall likewise  
10 appoint from the remaining eight (8) commissioners, four (4) commissioners  
11 who shall serve for a term of five (5) years and four (4) who shall serve for a  
12 term of three (3) years.] **THE COMMISSION SHALL BE COMPOSED  
13 OF ELEVEN (11) COMMISSIONERS TO BE APPOINTED BY THE  
14 PRESIDENT FOR A TERM OF SEVEN (7) YEARS. PROVIDED,  
15 THAT THE FIRST APPOINTEES PURSUANT TO THIS LAW  
16 SHALL HOLD OFFICE UNDER THE FOLLOWING STAGGERED  
17 TERMS, NAMELY: THE FIRST THREE (3) APPOINTED  
18 COMMISSIONERS SHALL HAVE A FULL TERM OF SEVEN (7)  
19 YEARS; THE NEXT FOUR (4) COMMISSIONERS SHALL HAVE A  
20 TERM OF FIVE (5) YEARS; AND THE REMAINING FOUR (4)  
21 COMMISSIONERS SHALL HAVE A TERM OF THREE (3) YEARS:  
22 PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT NO COMMISSIONER SHALL BE  
23 ELIGIBLE FOR ANY REAPPOINTMENT. APPOINTMENT TO  
24 ANY VACANCY SHALL ONLY BE FOR THE UNEXPIRED  
25 PORTION OF THE TERM OF THE PREDECESSOR. IN NO CASE  
26 SHALL A MEMBER BE APPOINTED OR DESIGNATED IN A  
27 TEMPORARY OR ACTING CAPACITY. In the absence of the  
28 Chairman, the commissioners shall choose a temporary or acting chairman  
29 from the two (2) full-time commissioners. **FROM THE FIRST THREE  
30 (3) COMMISSIONERS, THE PRESIDENT SHALL APPOINT THE  
31 CHAIRPERSON, ONE COMMISSIONER FOR ADMINISTRATION  
32 AND ANOTHER COMMISSIONER FOR PROGRAMS AND  
33 PROJECTS.**  
34**

1            “No one shall be appointed as commissioner unless he/she is a  
2 natural-born Filipino citizen, at least thirty (30) years old, morally upright  
3 and noted for his/her expertise in linguistics, the culture and language of the  
4 ethnolinguistic region and the discipline he/she represents.”  
5

6            **SEC. 4.** Section 8 of Republic Act No. 7104 shall be amended to read as follows  
7

8            “**SECTION 8. *Vacancy.*** — In case a vacancy occurs prior to the  
9 expiration of the term of office of a commissioner, the replacement shall  
10 serve only the unexpired portion of the term of office that was vacated. The  
11 Commission shall, within thirty (30) days from the date the vacancy occurs,  
12 recommend to the President a replacement from the list of nominees  
13 submitted by the particular ethnolinguistic region affected by the vacancy[,  
14 subject to the confirmation of the Commission on Appointments]: Provided,  
15 That, in the event of the Commission fails to make such recommendation,  
16 the vacancy shall be filled up by the President, also from the said list of  
17 nominees [and with the consent of the Commission on Appointments].”  
18

19            **SEC. 5.** Section 12 of Republic Act No. 7104 shall be amended to read as follows:  
20

21            “**SECTION 12. *Director General.*** — [There shall be a director  
22 general who shall be appointed by the Commission for a term of seven (7)  
23 years and who may be reappointed for a maximum of one (1) term. The  
24 Commission shall determine the powers, functions, duties and compensation  
25 of the director general.] **THERE SHALL BE AN EXECUTIVE**  
26 **DIRECTOR WHO SHALL BE APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT.**  
27 **HE/SHE SHALL HAVE A RANK EQUIVALENT TO A BUREAU**  
28 **DIRECTOR.**  
29

30            “**THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL HAVE THE**  
31 **FOLLOWING FUNCTIONS:**

32            **(A) IMPLEMENT THE POLICIES AND PROGRAMS**  
33            **APPROVED AND PROMULGATED BY THE**  
34            **COMMISSION;**

1                   **(B) REPRESENT THE COMMISSION IN MEETINGS WHEN**  
2                   **AUTHORIZED OR DELEGATED BY THE BOARD; AND**  
3                   **(C) PERFORM SUCH OTHER FUNCTIONS ASSIGNED BY**  
4                   **THE COMMISSION’S BOARD.”**

5  
6           **SEC. 6.** Section 14 of Republic Act No. 7104 shall be amended to read as follows:

7  
8                   **“SECTION 14. *Powers, Functions and Duties of the Commission.***

9           — The Commission, pursuant to the pertinent provisions of the  
10           Constitution, shall have the following powers, functions and duties:

11  
12           (a) Formulate policies, plans and programs to ensure the further  
13           development, enrichment, propagation and preservation of Filipino and  
14           other Philippine language;

15  
16           (b) Promulgate rules, regulations and guidelines to implement its  
17           policies, plans and programs;

18  
19           (c) Undertake or contract research and other studies to promote the  
20           evolution, development, enrichment and eventual standardization of Filipino  
21           and other Philippine languages. This will include the collation of works for  
22           possible incorporation into a multi-lingual dictionary of words, phrases,  
23           idioms, quotations, sayings and other expressions, including words and  
24           phrases from other languages now commonly used or included in the lingua  
25           franca;

26  
27           (d) Propose guidelines and standards for linguistic forms and  
28           expressions in all official communications, publications, textbooks and other  
29           reading and teaching materials;

30  
31           **(E) DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT CONSORTIUM**  
32           **AGREEMENTS TO LINK OTHER GOVERNMENT AGENCIES**  
33           **AND/OR PRIVATE INDIVIDUALS AND ORGANIZATIONS**  
34           **ENGAGED IN OR IN SUPPORT OF THE MANDATE OF THE**  
35           **COMMISSION;**

1  
2 [(e)] (F) Encourage and promote, through a system of incentives,  
3 grants and awards, the writing and publication, in Filipino and other  
4 Philippine languages, of original works, including textbooks and reference  
5 materials in various disciplines;

6  
7 [(f)] (G) Create and maintain within the Commission a division of  
8 transaction which shall encourage through incentives, undertake and  
9 vigorously support the translation into Filipino and other Philippine  
10 languages of important historical works and cultural traditions of  
11 ethnolinguistic groups, laws, resolutions and other legislative enactments,  
12 executive issuances, government policy statements and official documents,  
13 textbooks and reference materials in various disciplines and other foreign  
14 materials which it may deem necessary for education and other purposes;

15  
16 **(H) SECURE AND RECEIVE LOCAL, BILATERAL AND**  
17 **INTERNATIONAL DONATIONS, GRANTS AND ENDOWMENTS**  
18 **IN SUPPORT OF ITS PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS;**

19  
20 [(g)] (I) Call on any department, bureau, office, agency or any  
21 instrumentality of Government or on any private entity, institution or  
22 organization for cooperation and assistance in the performance of its  
23 functions, duties and responsibilities;

24  
25  
26 [(h)] (J) Conduct, at the national, regional and local levels, public  
27 hearings, conferences, seminars and other group discussions to identify and  
28 help resolve problems and issues involving the development, propagation  
29 and preservation of Filipino and other Philippine languages;

30  
31 **(K) INITIATE AND, IN COOPERATION WITH THE**  
32 **APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT OR PRIVATE ENTITIES,**  
33 **PROMOTE PROGRAMS FOR THE PRESERVATION,**  
34 **DEVELOPMENT, AND PROPAGATION OF FILIPINO AS**

1           **NATIONAL LANGUAGE, AND OTHER PHILIPPINE**  
2           **LANGUAGES;**

3  
4           [(i)] (L) Formulate and adopt guidelines, standards and systems for  
5           monitoring and reporting on its performance at the national, regional and  
6           local levels; and submit to the Office of the President and to Congress an  
7           annual progress report on the implementation of its policies, plans and  
8           programs;

9  
10          [(j)] (M)        Appoint, subject to the provisions of existing laws, its  
11          officials and employees and such other personnel as are necessary for the  
12          effective performance of its functions, duties and responsibilities; and  
13          dismiss them for cause;

14  
15          **(N) GENERATE FUNDS FROM GOVERNMENT OR PRIVATE**  
16          **SOURCES, LOCAL OR INTERNATIONAL FOR ITS PROGRAMS**  
17          **AND PROJECTS;**

18  
19          [(k)] (O)        Organize and reorganize the structure of the Commission,  
20          create or abolish positions, or change the designation of existing positions to  
21          meet the changing conditions or as the need therefor arises; Provided, That  
22          such changes shall not affect the employment status of the incumbents,  
23          reduce their ranks, decrease their salaries or result in their separation from  
24          the service; [and]

25  
26          **(P) COLLECT REASONABLE FEES FOR THE USE, SALE OR**  
27          **RENT OF ITS RESOURCES; AND**

28  
29          [(l)] (Q)        Perform such other activities which are necessary for the  
30          effective exercise of the abovementioned powers, functions, duties and  
31          responsibilities.”

32  
33          **SEC. 7.** A new section, Section 17-A, shall be added in Republic Act No. 7104 to  
34          read as follows:

1           **“SECTION 17-A. REVOLVING FUND. THE INCOME OF**  
2 **THE COMMISSION NOT EXCEEDING THE AMOUNT OF ONE**  
3 **MILLION PESOS (P1,000,000.00) DERIVED FROM THE**  
4 **PROCEEDS OF PUBLICATIONS AND DONATIONS, THE**  
5 **RENDERING OF TECHNICAL SERVICES, CONFERENCES AND**  
6 **WORKSHOPS AND SIMILAR INCOME SHALL BE**  
7 **CONSTITUTED AS A REVOLVING FUND TO AUGMENT THE**  
8 **PROJECTS AND PROGRAMS WHERE THE INCOME WAS**  
9 **DERIVED, SUBJECT TO GOVERNMENT AUDITING RULES AND**  
10 **REGULATIONS: PROVIDED, THAT PROCEEDS IN EXCESS OF**  
11 **THE AFOREMENTIONED AMOUNT SHALL BE REMITTED TO**  
12 **THE NATIONAL TREASURY AND ACCRUE TO THE GENERAL**  
13 **FUND.”**

14  
15           **SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** The Commission, in consultation  
16 with the other government agencies, shall promulgate the implementing rules and  
17 regulations within ninety (90) days after the effectivity of this Act.

18  
19           **SEC. 9. *Effectivity.*** This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its  
20 complete publication in the Official Gazette or in one (1) newspaper of general circulation.

21  
22           *Approved,*