

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



'16 JUL 19 AIO :28

SENATE

S.B. NO. 433

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by SENATOR LOREN LEGARDA

AN ACT PROMOTING THE USE OF BAYBAYIN AS A TOOL FOR CULTURAL DEVELOPMENT OF THE PHILIPPINES, PROVIDING FOR ITS PROMOTION, PROTECTION, PRESERVATION AND CONSERVATION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

Explanatory Note

The "Baybayin" is an ancient Philippine system of writing composed of a set of 17 cursive characters or letters which represents either a single consonant or vowel or a complete syllable. To recognize our traditional writing systems which are objects of national importance and considered as a National Cultural Treasure, the "Baybayin", an indigenous national writing script which will be Tagalog-based national written language and one of the existing native written languages, is hereby declared collectively as the "Baybayin" National Writing Script of the country. Hence, it should be promoted, protected, preserved and conserved for posterity for the next generation.

This bill, therefore, seeks to promote, protect, preserve and conserve the script through the following (a) by requiring food manufacturers to inscribe "Baybayin" scripts and their translation on containers or labels; (b) by mandating the LGUs to use "Baybayin" scripts in their signage for street names, public facilities, among others; (c) by requiring newspaper and magazine publishers to include "Baybayin" translation of their official name; and (d) by directing the appropriate government agency to disseminate knowledge and information about "Baybayin" script by distributing reading materials in all levels of public and private educational institutions and all government and private agencies and offices to instill awareness of the declaration of "Baybayin" as the national writing system.

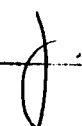
To give us a glimpse of the legacies of the past that remain to shape the present and the future of our country, passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


LOREN LEGARDA
Senator

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

1 **SEC. 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “National Writing
2 System Act.”
3

4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State
5 to inculcate, propagate and preserve the cultural heritage and treasures of
6 the Philippines for the evolution and development of patriotism among the
7 citizenry by giving utmost priority to the conservation and promotion of arts,
8 letters and culture. Towards this end, there is a need to promote, protect,
9 preserve and conserve “Baybayin”, using it as a tool for cultural and economic
10 development to create a consciousness, respect and pride for the legacies of
11 Filipino cultural history, heritage and our authentic identity.
12

13 **SEC. 3. Declaration of “Baybayin” as the National Writing System of the**
14 **Philippines.** – To generate greater awareness on the plight of “Baybayin” and
15 foster wider appreciation on its importance and beauty, “Baybayin” is hereby
16 declared the National Writing System of the Philippines. As used in this Act,
17 “Baybayin” shall refer to all existing and discovered ancient and traditional
18 scripts of the Philippine indigenous peoples.
19

20 **SEC. 4. Promotion of “Baybayin” as the National Writing System of the**
21 **Philippines.** – “Baybayin” as the national writing system representing
22 Philippine traditions and national identity shall be promoted through the
23 following:
24

- 25 (a) by requiring all manufacturers of locally produced processed produced
26 food products to inscribe “Baybayin” scripts and their translation on their
27 containers or labels;
28 (b) by mandating the local government units (LGUs) to include the appropriate
29 “Baybayin” script in their signage for street names, public facilities, public
30 buildings, and other necessary signage for other public service
31 establishments such as hospitals, fire and police stations, community
32 centers and government halls;
33 (c) by requiring newspaper and magazine publishers to include a “Baybayin”
34 translation of their official name; and

1 (d) by directing the appropriate government agency to disseminate knowledge
2 and information about "Baybayin" script by distributing reading materials in
3 all levels of public and private educational institutions and all government
4 and private agencies and offices to instill awareness of the declaration of
5 "Baybayin" as the national writing system and to conduct staff trainings for
6 the proper handling of these important documents.
7

8 **SEC. 5. Protection, Preservation and Conservation of "Baybayin" Script. –**
9 The National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) is hereby mandated
10 to protect, preserve and conserve "Baybayin" as a National Cultural Treasure.
11

12 **SEC. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. –** Within sixty (60) days after
13 the approval of this Act, the National Commission for Culture and the Arts
14 (NCCA), in coordination with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI),
15 Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Education
16 (DepEd) and Commission on Higher Education (CHED), shall promulgate the
17 necessary rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.
18

19 **SEC. 7. Repealing Clause. –** All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and
20 regulations and other issuances or parts thereof that are inconsistent with
21 the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified
22 accordingly.
23

24 **SEC. 8. Separability Clause. –** If any part, section or provision of this Act
25 shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other part, section or
26 provision not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.
27

28 **SEC. 9. - Effectivity.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
29 publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.
30

31 Approved,