


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



'16 JUL 20 P4:35

SENATE  
S.B. No. 702

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by: Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" A. Aquino IV

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**AN ACT**  
**GRANTING PERMANENT RESIDENCY TO QUALIFIED RELIGIOUS WORKERS**  
**AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 9 AND 13 OF COMMONWEALTH ACT NO.**  
**613, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE PHILIPPINE IMMIGRATION ACT OF 1940 AND FOR**  
**OTHER PURPOSES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Foreign religious workers and missionaries have played an important role not only in the faith life of Filipino communities, but also in promoting the welfare of the poor through outreach work and social missions. They have sacrificed and left the comfort of their homes to live away from their families without expecting or asking for anything in return. They have chosen not just to share their talents and skills but also intend to live the rest of their lives and die serving the Filipino people. We are honored to have their experiences one with the people whose life we welcome in our country.

This bill seeks to amend Commonwealth Act No. 613, otherwise known as the Philippine Immigration Act of 1940. It is our intent to relieve foreign religious workers of the burdensome requirements and procedures for staying in the country and performing their chosen vocation here that benefits our communities. This bill seeks to assist the many religious workers who have already dedicated long years of their lives to their missionary work and vocation in the country.

This measure is also part of the proposed reforms to update our antiquated immigration law to better address the changing needs and demands of the Philippines, as a member of an increasingly globalized and interconnected international community.

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


  
Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" A. Aquino IV

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**AN ACT**  
**GRANTING PERMANENT RESIDENCY TO QUALIFIED RELIGIOUS WORKERS AMENDING FOR**  
**THE PURPOSE SECTIONS 9 AND 13 OF COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 613, OTHERWISE**  
**KNOWN AS THE PHILIPPINE IMMIGRATION ACT OF 1940 AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

3 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** - This Act shall be known as the "*Permanent Residency for*  
4 *Qualified Religious Workers Act*".

5 **SEC. 2.** Section 9 of Commonwealth Act No. 613 or the Philippine Immigration Act of  
6 1940 is hereby amended by inserting the following provision after Subsection (f) to read as  
7 follows:

8 "Section 9. Aliens departing from any place outside the Philippines, who are  
9 otherwise admissible and who qualify within one of the following categories, may be  
10 admitted as nonimmigrants:

11 xxx

12 (g) Prearranged employment. - An alien coming to prearranged employment for  
13 whom the issuance of a visa has been authorized in accordance with section twenty of this  
14 Act, and his wife, and his unmarried children under twenty-one years of age, if  
15 accompanying him or if following to join him within a period of six months from the date of  
16 his admission into the Philippines as a nonimmigrant under this paragraph. An alien who is  
17 admitted as a nonimmigrant cannot remain in the Philippines permanently. To obtain  
18 permanent admission, a nonimmigrant alien must depart voluntarily to some foreign  
19 country and procure from the appropriate Philippine consul the proper visa and thereafter  
20 undergo examination by the officers of the Bureau of Immigration at a Philippine port of  
21 entry for determination of his admissibility in accordance with the requirements[.]; **AND**

22 **(H) RELIGIOUS WORKER - DULY ORDAINED OR PROFESSIONAL MISSIONARIES AND**  
23 **RELIGIOUS MINISTERS, INCLUDING MEMBERS OF THEIR FAMILY, WHO SEEK TO ENTER THE**  
24 **PHILIPPINES TO JOIN A RELIGIOUS CONGREGATION OR DENOMINATION DULY**

1 REGISTERED WITH THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION, UPON INVITATION,  
2 SPONSORSHIP OR GUARANTEE OF SUCH RELIGIOUS CONGREGATION OR DENOMINATION,  
3 SOLELY FOR THE PURPOSE OF PROPAGATING, TEACHING AND DISSEMINATING THEIR  
4 FAITH OR RELIGION.”

5 SEC. 3. Section 13 of Commonwealth Act No. 613 or the Philippine Immigration Act  
6 of 1940 is hereby amended by inserting the following provision after Subsection (f) to read  
7 as follows:

8 “xxx

9 (f) A natural-born citizen of the Philippines, who has been naturalized in a foreign  
10 country, and is returning to the Philippines for permanent residence, including his spouse  
11 and minor unmarried children, shall be considered a non-quota immigrant for purposes of  
12 entering the Philippines[.]; AND

13 (G) RELIGIOUS WORKERS WHO HAVE FULFILLED RESIDENCY AND OTHER  
14 REQUIREMENTS TO BE DETERMINED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE.”

15 SEC. 4. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is subsequently declared  
16 invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall  
17 remain in full force and effect.

18 SEC. 5. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, and other  
19 issuances, or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed  
20 or modified accordingly.

21 SEC. 6. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take fifteen (15) days after its publication in the  
22 *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

23 *Approved,*