



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

'17 JAN 19 A11 03

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

S.B. No. 1301

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Introduced by Senator JOEL VILLANUEVA

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**AN ACT DECLARING THE LAST MONDAY OF JANUARY AS THE  
NATIONAL FAITH DAY**

**Explanatory Note**

According to the data presented by the Center for Global Education, about 94% of the population of the Philippines are Christians, 4% are Muslims, while the remaining 2% are those practicing non-Western and indigenous beliefs. In fact, the Pew Research Center approximates that 90% of Filipinos consider religion very important. It further estimates that by 2050, the Philippines will be the fourth country with the largest Christian population.

This bill recognizes the religiosity of Filipinos and seeks to encourage them observe their faith in a manner that will positively influence the society. This bill also seeks to recognize the various faith groups in the Philippines and allow them, in unity, to commemorate a special day in celebrating their respective beliefs.

This bill also complements the commemoration of the "National Bible Week" established under Proclamation Nos. 44 and 1067, which designates the last week of January of every year as the "National Bible Week."

Thus, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
SENATOR JOEL VILLANUEVA



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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.* – The last Monday of January of every year is hereby  
2 declared as the “National Faith Day.”

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4 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Principles.* – It is a policy of the State to aid and  
5 encourage the development of the moral character and spiritual foundation of the  
6 Filipino people.

7  
8 SEC. 3. Section 26, Chapter 7, Book I of Executive Order No. 292, otherwise  
9 known as “The Administrative Code of 1987,” as amended, is hereby amended to  
10 read as follows:

11  
12 SEC. 26. Regular Holidays and Nationwide Special Days. –

13  
14 (1) Unless otherwise modified by law, order or proclamation, the following  
15 regular holidays and special days shall be observed in the country:

16  
17 A. Regular Holidays

New Year's Day	January 1
NATIONAL FAITH DAY	MOVABLE DATE
Maundy Thursday	Movable Date
Good Friday	Movable Date
Araw ng Kagitingan	Monday nearest April 9
Labor Day	Monday nearest May 1
Eidul Fitr	Movable Date
Eidul Adha	Movable Date
Independence Day	Monday nearest June 12
National Heroes Day	Last Monday of August
Bonifacio Day	Monday nearest November 30
Christmas Day	December 25
Rizal Day	Monday nearest December 30

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B. Nationwide Special Holidays

Ninoy Aquino Day	Monday nearest August 21
All Saints Day	November 1
Last day of the year	December 31

C. The terms "legal or regular holidays" and "special holiday," as used in laws, orders, rules and regulations or other issuances shall be referred to as "regular holiday" and "special day," respectively.

SEC. 4. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or otherwise invalid, the validity of the provisions shall not be affected thereby.

SEC. 5. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Sec. 6. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,