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SENATE

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COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 394

Submitted by the Committee on Education, Arts and Culture and Finance on  
MAY 30 2018

Re: House Bill No. 5577,

Recommending its approval with amendments, taking into consideration Senate Bill Nos.  
1481 and 1506

Sponsor: Senator Escudero

MR. PRESIDENT:

The Committee on Education, Arts and Culture and Finance, to which were referred  
House Bill No. 5577, introduced by Rep. Noel, V., *et. Al.*, entitled:

**“AN ACT  
MANDATING THE CONSERVATION OF GABALDON SCHOOL BUILDINGS  
NATIONWIDE, PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS, AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”**

Taking into consideration:

Senate Bill No. 1481, introduced by . Sonny Angara, *entitled:*

**“AN ACT  
MANDATING THE CONSERVATION OF GABALDON SCHOOL BUILDINGS  
NATIONWIDE, PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS, AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND OTHER PURPOSES”**

and Senate Bill No. 1506, introduced by Sen. Loren Legarda, *entitled:*

**“AN ACT  
MANDATING THE CONSERVATION OF GABALDON SCHOOL BUILDINGS  
NATIONWIDE, PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS, AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR”**

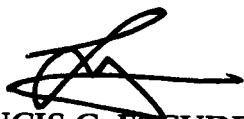
have considered the same and have the honor to report them back to the Senate with the  
recommendation that House Bill No. 5577 be approved with the following amendments:

1. ON PAGE 2, BETWEEN LINES 10 AND 11, INSERT A NEW SECTION TO READ AS FOLLOWS:

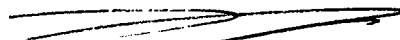
**"SEC. 4. GABALDON SCHOOL BUILDINGS AS CULTURAL PROPERTIES. ALL GABALDON SCHOOL BUILDINGS SHALL BE RECOGNIZED AS BUILT HERITAGE AND THEREFORE BE INCLUDED AS PART OF CULTURAL PROPERTIES UNDER REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10066 OR THE NATIONAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ACT OF 2009.**

2. RE-NUMBER THE SUCCEEDING SECTIONS ACCORDINGLY.
3. ON PAGE 3, LINES 13 TO 29, DELETE THE ENTIRE SECTION 5.

Respectfully submitted:



**SEN. FRANCIS G. ESCUDERO**  
*Chairperson*  
Committee on Education, Arts  
and Culture  
Member, Committee on Finance




**SEN. LOREN B. LEGARDA**  
*Chairperson*  
Committee on Finance  
Member, Committee on Education,  
Arts and Culture

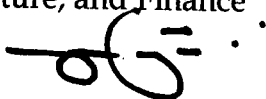
*Vice Chairpersons:*



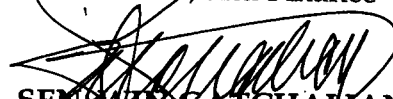
**SEN. SONNY M. ANGARA**  
Committees on Education, Arts  
and Culture; and Finance



**SEN. PAOLO BENIGNO AQUINO IV**  
Committees on Education, Arts  
and Culture, and Finance



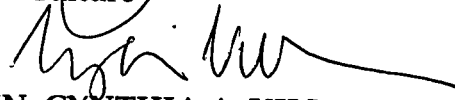
**SEN. JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO**  
Committees on Education, Arts  
and Culture; and Finance



**SEN. WIN GATCHALIAN**  
Committee on Education, Arts  
and Culture



**SEN. JOEL VILLANUEVA**  
Committees on Education, Arts  
and Culture; and Finance



**SEN. CYNTHIA A. VILLAR**  
Committee on Finance  
Member, Committee on Education,  
Arts and Culture




**SEN. PANFILO M. LACSON**  
Committee on Finance

*Members:*

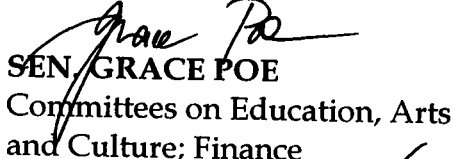


**SEN. MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY**  
Committees on Education, Arts  
and Culture; Finance

**SEN. RICHARD J. GORDON**  
Committees on Education, Arts  
and Culture; and Finance




**SEN. EMMANUEL "MANNY" D. PACQUIAO**  
Committee on Education, Arts  
and Culture



**SEN. GRACE POE**  
Committees on Education, Arts  
and Culture; Finance

**SEN. GREGORIO B. HONASAN II**  
Committee on Finance



**SEN. JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI**  
Committee on Finance

**SEN. ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV**  
Committees on Education, Arts  
and Culture; and Finance

**SEN. RISA HONTIVEROS**  
Committees on Education, Arts  
and Culture; and Finance



**SEN. FRANCIS "KIKO" PANGILINAN**  
Committees on Education, Arts  
and Culture; and Finance

*Ex-Officio Members:*



**SEN. FRANKLIN M. DRILON**  
*Senate Minority Floor Leader*



**SEN. VICENTE C. SOTTO III**  
*Senate Majority Floor Leader*

**SEN. RALPH G. RECTO**  
*Senate President Pro-Tempore*

**HON. AQUILINO "KOKO" PIMENTEL III**  
*Senate President*



**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**H. No. 5577**

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BY REPRESENTATIVES NOEL, ROMUALDO, DURANO, ESCUDERO, DE VENECIA,  
ALONTE, BELMONTE (J.C.), SAVELLANO, ERIGUE, ORTEGA (P.),  
ENVERGA, BOHILIA, VERGARA, SALO, GO (M.), CHAVEZ, CHARESMA,  
YU, SANTOS-RECTO, LABADLABAD, GO (A.C.), NUGRALES (K.A.),  
SALCEDA, DIMAPORO (M.K.), DEL MAR, LOBREGAL, BATAOIL,  
SUANSING (E.), DEFENSOR, ABAYA, ARCILLAS, JUADA, LUPAS,  
DELOS-MONTALLA, CAMINERO, ROQUE (H.), ROQUE (R.), AMATONG,  
GONZALEZ, ACOSTA, SY-ALVARADO, DALIFE, CARL, CAGAS,  
MANGAOANG, PRIMICIAS-AGABAS, NAVA AND MANALO, PER  
COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 221

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AN ACT MANDATING THE CONSERVATION OF GABALDON  
SCHOOL BUILDINGS NATIONWIDE, PROVIDING PENALTIES  
FOR VIOLATIONS, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1           SECTION 1. *Short Title*. This Act shall be known as the "Gabaldon  
2 School Buildings Conservation Act"

3           SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy*. It is hereby declared the policy of  
4 the State to conserve and promote the country's historical and cultural heritage  
5 and resources. Towards this end, it shall strengthen its efforts and pursue a  
6 more proactive role in the conservation and restoration of built heritage, such

1 as the Gabaldon school buildings, to preserve their architectural, historical,  
2 and social significance

3 SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* - As used in this Act

4 (a) *Conservation* refers to all processes and measures of  
5 maintaining the cultural significance of Gabaldon school buildings  
6 including preservation, restoration, reconstruction, protection, adaptation  
7 or any combination thereof, and

8 (b) *Gabaldon school buildings* refer to school buildings designed  
9 by American Architect William Parsons and funded through Act No. 1801,  
10 authored by Assemblyman Isauro Gabaldon.

11 SEC. 4. *Conservation of Gabaldon School Buildings.* The  
12 Department of Education (DepED), in consultation with the National  
13 Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), the National Historical  
14 Commission of the Philippines (NHCP), and the National Museum (NM),  
15 shall implement a program for the identification and conservation of all  
16 Gabaldon school buildings nationwide

17 For this purpose, an inventory of all Gabaldon school buildings,  
18 whether fully functional or condemned, in all public elementary and secondary  
19 schools, shall be jointly undertaken by the DepED and the NCCA to determine  
20 the physical status of each structure. School heads shall submit to their  
21 respective Schools Division Superintendents, for appropriate action, a report  
22 indicating the existence of or any structural damage to any Gabaldon school  
23 building in schools under their respective supervisions.

24 Local government units that have Gabaldon school buildings under  
25 their jurisdiction shall likewise adopt measures for the protection and  
26 conservation of these structures and shall provide the DepED with the  
27 necessary assistance in the implementation of any conservation project.

28 Any modification, alteration, destruction, demolition, or relocation of  
29 Gabaldon school buildings shall be strictly prohibited. In cases where

1 conservation measures are necessary, the DepED, in coordination with the  
2 NCCA, the NHCP, and the NM, shall provide proper technical assistance to  
3 school heads to ensure that the original architectural design of the school  
4 building is maintained: *Provided, however,* That, subject to the issuance of a  
5 permit from the NCCA, any modification or alteration of the original  
6 architectural design of Gabaldon school buildings may be allowed in public  
7 elementary and secondary schools where the exigency of constructing new  
8 school buildings is a priority in anticipation of the increase in student  
9 population by virtue of the implementation of Republic Act No. 10533, or  
10 the "Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013": *Provided, further,* That the  
11 facade and other distinct features of the original Gabaldon school buildings  
12 shall, as much as possible, be preserved.

13        *Sec. 5. Penalties* Any person who shall abet or cause the  
14 unauthorized modification, alteration, destruction, demolition, or relocation  
15 of the Gabaldon school building shall be subject to a fine of not less than  
16 two hundred thousand pesos (P200,000.00) or imprisonment for a term of  
17 not less than ten (10) years, or both, upon the discretion of the court, and  
18 shall likewise pay for the conservation of the structure. *Provided,* That if  
19 the violation is committed by a juridical person, its license to operate shall  
20 be revoked, and its president, manager, representative, director, agent, or  
21 employee shall also be liable for the penalties prescribed herein. *Provided,*  
22 *further,* That if the offender is an alien, the offender shall be placed under  
23 the custody of the Bureau of Immigration for appropriate proceedings and  
24 shall be summarily deported after serving the applicable sentence.

25        School heads who fail to submit a report to their respective Schools  
26 Division Superintendents on the existence of or any structural damage to any  
27 Gabaldon school building in schools under their respective supervision, shall  
28 be held administratively liable for simple neglect of duty and shall be  
29 suspended without pay for a period of six (6) months.

1           SEC. 6. *Appropriations.* - The Secretary of Education shall  
2 immediately include in the Department's program the implementation of this  
3 Act, the initial funding of which shall be charged to the current year's  
4 appropriation of the DepED. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the  
5 continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General  
6 Appropriations Act.

7           SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations* - Within ninety (90)  
8 days from the approval of this Act, the DepED, in consultation with the  
9 NCCA, the NHCP, and the NM, shall formulate the rules and regulations  
10 implementing the provisions of this Act.

11           SEC. 8. *Separability Clause* - If any provision of this Act is held  
12 invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not so declared shall remain in  
13 force and effect.

14           SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, orders and rules, and  
15 regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are  
16 hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

17           SEC. 10. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days  
18 after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general  
19 circulation.

Approved.

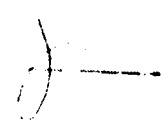
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SENATE

S.B. No. 1481

REC.



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Introduced by Senator **SONNY ANGARA**

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**AN ACT**  
**MANDATING THE CONSERVATION OF GABALDON SCHOOL BUILDINGS**  
**NATIONWIDE, PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS, AND**  
**APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**Explanatory Note**

Year 1902 marked the establishment of the American Insular Government over what was then known as the Philippine Islands. This civilian authority superseded the military regime created immediately after the Philippine-American war. Strides toward nation building were made during this time, as Dr. Maximo M. Kalaw<sup>1</sup> credited how raw materials in the Philippines including the Filipino's inherent capabilities contributed to the country's progress.

One of the hallmarks of American rule in the country during the early 1900s was the introduction of free public schools that taught Filipinos the duties of citizenship, among others.<sup>2</sup> A vital addition to this reformed education system was a measure<sup>3</sup> authored by the late assemblyman Isaura Gabaldon of Nueva Ecija that sought to allocate P1 million for the construction of schoolhouses in every municipality in the country.

As a result, about 3,000 school buildings made out of local hardwood were built between 1907 and 1946, serving as the birthplace of Philippine public education system.<sup>4</sup> These one to two-storey structures are H or U shaped buildings that distinctly featured elevated flooring, Capiz-shelled windows with wooden frames, and classrooms connected by corridors, among other unique characteristics.

<sup>1</sup> Philippine Organic Act of 1902.

<sup>2</sup> The Foundations of the Modern Philippine State: Imperial Rule and the American Constitution, 1898-1935. Anastacio L. Cambridge University Press (2016).

<sup>3</sup> Historical Perspective of the Philippine Educational System. Department of Education (DepEd) <http://www.deped.gov.ph/history>

<sup>4</sup> Act No. 1801, otherwise known as the Gabaldon Act (1907).

Restoring the glory of Gabaldon buildings. Ramon Abella Foundation.

The schools later to be known as *Gabaldon* schoolhouses in honor of Assemblyman Gabaldon, are undoubtedly part of Filipino heritage. However, the remaining 1,400 *Gabaldons*<sup>b</sup> are imminently facing demolition and decay.

Initiatives by the Department of Education and certain private foundations have been vital to prolonging the integrity of these structures. But there is also the need for a legislation that would institutionalize such conservation efforts.

This measure, which is in line with the Constitutional mandate to "conserve, promote, and popularize the nation's historical and cultural heritage and resources" directs the conservation of all Gabaldon school buildings nationwide not only to preserve these structures, but also to reinforce the Filipino heritage as it advances towards the future. This bill serves as the counterpart measure authored by Rep. Victoria Isabel G. Noel of An Waray party-list in the House of Representatives.

In view of the immense need to protect cultural heritage for the next Filipino generations, the urgent passage of the foregoing measure is sought.



**SONNY ANGARA**

<sup>b</sup>DepEd estimated 1,447 existing Gabaldon heritage school buildings nationwide last 2015.  
Art. XII, Sec. 19, 1987 Philippine Constitution.

1           **SEC. 7 *Implementing Rules and Regulations*** – Within ninety (90) days  
2 from the approval of this Act, the DepED in consultation with the NCCA, NHCP and  
3 the NM, shall formulate the rules and regulations implementing the provisions of this  
4 Act

5           **SEC. 8 *Separability Clause*** – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or  
6 unconstitutional, the other provisions not so declared shall remain in force and effect

7           **SEC. 9 *Repealing Clause*** – All laws, decrees, orders and rules and  
8 regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby  
9 repealed or amended accordingly

10           **SEC. 10 *Effectivity*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
11 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation

Approved:

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

July 24, 1925

SENATE  
Senate Bill No. 1506

*J. Legarda*

Introduced By SENATOR LOREN LEGARDA

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AN ACT  
MANDATING THE CONSERVATION OF GABALDON SCHOOL  
BUILDINGS NATIONWIDE, PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS,  
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

Explanatory Note

The conservation of heritage buildings is imperative in preserving the cultural memory of the Philippines and maintaining a link to our past. Notable examples are the Gabaldon school buildings: heritage school houses built in the Philippines from 1907 to 1946 that follow a standard design and plan by Architect William E. Parsons. The Gabaldon heritage school buildings were named after the late assemblyman Isauro Gabaldon who authored Republic Act 1801 which appropriated one million pesos for the construction of school buildings in every municipality in the country.

There are reportedly 1,446 Gabaldon heritage school buildings all over the Philippines. These structures symbolize the first foundation of the Philippine public school system during the American period, in which each Filipino child, even from the most remote areas of the country, had access to formal education.

It is about time that the national government give due importance to Gabaldon heritage school buildings as they serve as an important reminder of our country's unique identity, history and rich culture.

For these reasons, immediate passage of the bill is sought.

LOREN LEGARDA

SENATE

Senate Bill No. 1506

12  
A

Introduced By SENATOR LOREN LEGARDA

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AN ACT  
MANDATING THE CONSERVATION OF GABALDON SCHOOL  
BUILDINGS NATIONWIDE, PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS,  
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1           **SECTION 1. Short Title.** - This Act shall be known as the "*Gabalton School*  
2 *Buildings Conservation Act*"

3

4           **SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.** - It is hereby declared the policy of  
5 the State to conserve and promote the country's historical and cultural heritage  
6 and resources. Towards this end, it shall strengthen its efforts in the  
7 conservation and restoration of built heritage, such as Gabaldon school  
8 buildings, to preserve their architectural, historical, and social significance.

9

10           **SECTION 3. Definition of Terms.** - As used in this Act:

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12           a. *Conservation* refers to all processes and measures of maintaining the  
13 cultural significance of Gabaldon school buildings including preservation,  
14 restoration, reconstruction, protection, adaptation or any combination thereof,  
15 and

16

17           b. *Gabalton school buildings* refer to school buildings designed by  
18 American Architect William Parsons and funded through Act No. 1801, authored  
19 by Assemblyman Isauro Gabaldon

20

1           **SECTION 4. Conservation of Gabaldon School Buildings.** - The  
2 Department of Education (DepED), in consultation with the National  
3 Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), National Historical Commission  
4 of the Philippines (NHCP), and the National Museum (NM), shall implement a  
5 program for the identification and conservation of all Gabaldon school buildings  
6 nationwide.

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8           For this purpose, an inventory of all Gabaldon school buildings, whether  
9 fully functional or condemned, in all public elementary and secondary schools  
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11 physical status of each structure. School heads shall submit to their respective  
12 Schools Division Superintendents, for appropriate action, a report indicating the  
13 existence of or any structural damage to any Gabaldon school buildings in  
14 schools under their respective supervisions.

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16           Local government units that have Gabaldon school buildings under their  
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18 these structures and shall provide the DepED with the necessary assistance in the  
19 implementation of any conservation project.

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23 conservation measures are necessary, the DepED, in coordination with the  
24 NCCA, NHCP, and the NM, shall provide proper technical assistance to school  
25 heads to ensure that the original architectural design of the school building is  
26 maintained: *Provided, however,* That, subject to the issuance of a permit from the  
27 NCCA, any modification or alteration of the original architectural design of  
28 Gabaldon school buildings may be allowed in public elementary and secondary  
29 schools where the exigency of constructing new school buildings is a priority in  
30 anticipation of the increase in student population by virtue of the  
31 implementation of Republic Act No. 10533, or the "Enhanced Basic Education  
32 Act of 2013": *Provided, further,* That the facade and other distinct features of the  
33 original Gabaldon school buildings shall, as much as possible, be preserved.

34

1           **SECTION 5. Penalties.** - Any person who shall abet or cause the  
2 unauthorized modification, alteration, destruction, demolition, or relocation of  
3 the Gabaldon school building; shall be subject to a fine of not less than two  
4 hundred thousand pesos (P200,000.00) or imprisonment for a term of not less  
5 than ten (10) years, or both, upon the discretion of the Court, and shall likewise  
6 pay for the conservation of the structure: *Provided*, That if the violation is  
7 committed by a juridical person, its license to operate shall be revoked, and its  
8 president, manager, representative, director, agent, or employee shall also be  
9 liable for the penalties prescribed herein: *Provided, further*, That if the offender is  
10 an alien, the offender shall be placed under the custody of the Bureau of  
11 Immigration (BI) for appropriate proceedings and shall be summarily deported  
12 after serving the applicable sentence.

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14           School heads who fail to submit a report to their respective Schools  
15 Division Superintendents on the existence of or any structural damage to any  
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17 be held administratively liable for simple neglect of duty and shall be suspended  
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20           **SECTION 6. Appropriations.** - The Secretary of Education shall  
21 immediately include in the Department's program the implementation of this  
22 Act, the initial funding of which shall be charged to the current year's  
23 appropriation of the DepED. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continued  
24 implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General  
25 Appropriations Act

26  
27           **SECTION 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - Within ninety (90)  
28 days from the approval of this Act, the DepED, in consultation with the NCC, A,  
29 NHCP, and the NM shall formulate the rules and regulations implementing the  
30 provisions of this Act.

31  
32           **SECTION 8. Separability Clause.** - If any provision of this Act is held  
33 invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not so declared shall remain in  
34 force and effect.

35

1           **SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, decrees, orders and rules and  
2 regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby  
3 repealed or amended accordingly.

4

5           **SECTION 10. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days  
6 after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general  
7 circulation

8

9           Approved.

10