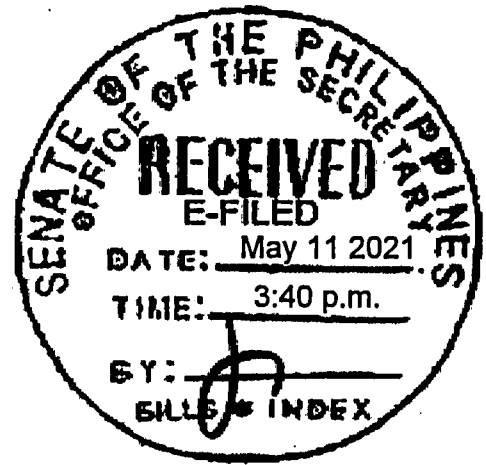


EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*Second Regular Session* )



SENATE  
S. B. No. 2170

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Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

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**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CULTURAL CENTER AND MUSEUM IN THE  
PROVINCE OF BILIRAN AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR**

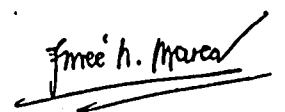
EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article XIV, Section 16 of the Constitution states that, "*All the country's artistic and historic wealth constitutes the cultural treasure of the nation and shall be under the protection of the State which may regulate its disposition.*" Section 17 of the same Article further states that, "*The State shall recognize, respect, and protect the rights of indigenous cultural communities to preserve and develop their cultures, traditions, and institutions. It shall consider these rights in the formulation of national plans and policies.*"

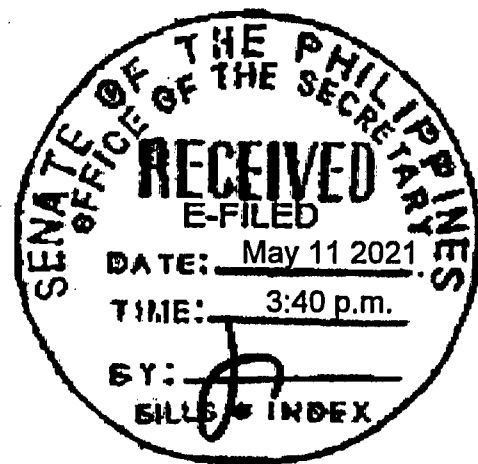
Many people are aware that Biliran Province is made up of a group of islands. With the passage of RA 10409, also known as "*An Act Declaring the Province of Biliran as a Tourism Development Area and Providing Funds Therefor,*" more foreign and domestic tourists are visiting the island. Despite being the fourth smallest province in the Philippines, with a total land area of 53,601 hectares, Biliran is rich in history and cultural heritage. It does not, however, have a cultural center to showcase its distinct cultural heritage. The province lacks a museum to house and protect all of the artifacts, relics, works of art, and a plethora of other objects that symbolize and represent the residents' past, present, and future.

This bills therefor seeks to establish a cultural center and museum in the Province of Biliran. It is imperative to preserve and protect its local history, tradition and values, as well as its cultural heritage and regional identity.

In view thereof, immediate approval of this Bill is earnestly sought.

  
**IMEE R. MARCOS**

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
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**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A CULTURAL CENTER AND MUSEUM IN THE  
PROVINCE OF BILIRAN AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

1           SECTION 1. *Establishment.* – There shall be established, under the supervision  
2 of the National Museum, a cultural center and museum in the province of Biliran to be  
3 known as Biliran Cultural Center and Museum.

4           SEC. 2. *Site Selection.* – The *Sangguniang Panglungsod* of the Province of  
5 Biliran in coordination with the Director of the National Museum, shall choose the site  
6 of the Biliran Cultural Center and Museum.

7           SEC. 3. For purposes of implementation of its activities and functions, the Biliran  
8 Cultural Center and Museum, is hereby authorized to give emphasis to the following  
9 undertakings:

- 10           a. To compile the musical notes and lyrics of Biliran traditional songs,  
11           ballads and contemporary music compositions; and to collect samples of  
12           musical instruments of Biliran origin, design and manufacture; and to  
13           acquire and display a varied range of Biliran arts and artifacts;  
14           b. To publish and disseminate Biliran literary works, epics, stories and  
15           historical accounts;  
16           c. To compile Biliran literature, film, or audio-visual recordings of cultural  
17           performances in music, dances, oral literature, and festival celebrations;  
18           Biliran works, names of barangays, towns and other places of interests  
19           and their respective history;  
20           d. To gather and document Biliran religious practices and traditions, and  
21           the background and origin of Biliran fiestas and festivals;  
22           e. To compile photographs of and showcase by appropriate exhibits, Biliran  
23           landmarks, historical sites and scenic views;

1 f. To gather specimens of archaeological findings; to collect stones, rocks  
2 and other geological materials; and to preserve by appropriate methods,  
3 samples of flora and fauna indigenous to the province of Biliran.  
4

5 **SEC. 4. Appropriations.** – The amount necessary for the implementation of this  
6 Act shall be charged to the current appropriations for the National Museum.  
7 Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for the continuous operation and  
8 maintenance of the cultural center and museum shall be included in the annual  
9 General Appropriations Act.

10 **SEC. 5. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
11 complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation in  
12 the Philippines.

*Approved,*