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SENATE
S.B. No. 2885

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Introduced by Senator Ramon Bong Revilla, Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippine Constitution enshrines the right of the people to religious freedom. No less than the highest law of the land guarantees the free exercise and enjoyment of religious profession and worship by its people.

The Iglesia ni Cristo (INC) is the largest entirely indigenous Christian religious organization that originated from the Philippines and the largest independent church in Asia. It was founded by Felix Y. Manalo in 27 July 1914, and its first church was established in Punta, Sta. Ana, Manila. Since then, the INC has grown and has continued to play an influential role in shaping the moral outlook of our nation. According to the 2000 census of the Philippine National Statistics Office, over 1.76 million persons in the Philippines were affiliated with the Iglesia ni Cristo as of that year. At present, the Iglesia ni Cristo has local congregations in 89 countries and territories with its members belonging to 102 nationalities and ethnic groups. By 2008, the INC had grown to more than 5,000 congregations in the Philippines, and more than 600 abroad.

Undoubtedly, the Iglesia ni Cristo plays a key role in our society. This bill seeks to declare July 27 of every year a national holiday to observe the founding anniversary of the Iglesia ni Cristo, not only in recognition of its contributions in nation-building but also for its unique character of being indigent to the Philippines.

In view of the foregoing, passage of this bill is urgently requested.



RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

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**AN ACT DECLARING JULY 27 OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL
NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN RECOGNITION OF THE FOUNDING
ANNIVERSARY OF THE IGLESIA NI CRISTO IN THE PHILIPPINES,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 26, CHAPTER 7 EXECUTIVE
ORDER NO. 292, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE ADMINISTRATIVE CODE OF
1987, AS AMENDED**

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known and cited as the
“Commemoraton of the Founding Anniversary of Iglesia ni Cristo Act”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the declared policy of the State to
observe the founding anniversary of the Iglesia ni Cristo every 27th of July in
recognition of its exemplary feat of landing its members towards spiritual
enlightenment and good citizenry.

SEC. 3. *National Holiday.* – July 27 of every year is hereby declared as a
special national nonworking holiday in commemoration of the founding
anniversary of the Iglesia ni Cristo in the Philippines.

SEC. 4. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, letters
of instructions, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with
this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 5. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,