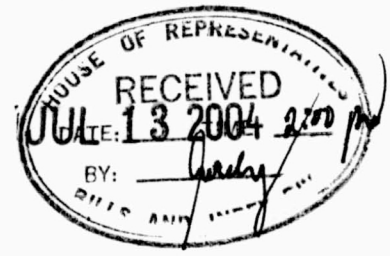
Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HB NO. 1361

Introduced by **Rep. Roseller L. Barinaga**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Art. XIV, Sec. 18, paragraph (1) provides that the State shall ensure equal access to cultural opportunities through the educational system, public or private cultural entities, scholarships, grants and other incentives, and community cultural centers, and other public venues. The same section in paragraph (2) further stipulates that the State shall encourage and support researches and studies on the arts and culture.

Art. XIV, Sec. 14 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides that the State shall foster the preservation, enrichment, and dynamic evolution of a Filipino national culture based on the principle of unity in diversity in a climate of free artistic and intellectual expression.

Art. XIV, Sec. 15 further provides that Arts and letters shall enjoy the patronage of the State. The State shall conserve, promote, and popularize the nation's historical and cultural heritage and resources, as well as artistic creations.

Art. XIV, Sec. 2 furthermore declares that State shall establish and maintain a system of scholarship grants, students loan programs, subsidies, and other incentives which shall be available to deserving students in both public and private schools, especially to the underprivileged.

ROSELLER L. BARINAGA
Representative
2nd District, Zamboanga del Norte

Congress of the Philippines)
Thirteenth Congress)
First Regular Session)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HB NO. 1361

Introduced by **Rep. Roseller L. Barinaga**

AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE NATIONAL HISTORICAL INSTITUTE'S (NHI) DOCUMENTATION SYSTEM ON PHILIPPINE LOCAL FOLK HISTORIES AND ORAL TRADITIONS, PROVIDING MECHANISM FOR ITS IMPLEMENTATION, ALLOCATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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 as the "*Local Folk Histories Grant Act of 2004*".

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy*. It is the declared policy of the State to ensure equal access to cultural opportunities through the educational system, public or private cultural entities, scholarships, grants and other incentives, and community cultural centers, and other public venues. It is further stipulated that the State shall encourage and support researches and studies on the arts and culture.

It is also added that the State shall foster the preservation, enrichment, and dynamic evolution of a Filipino national culture based on the principle of unity in diversity in a climate of free artistic and intellectual expression. Arts and letters shall enjoy the patronage of the State. The State shall conserve, promote, and popularize the nation's historical and cultural heritage and resources, as well as artistic creations.

Furthermore the State shall establish and maintain a system of scholarship grants, students loan programs, subsidies, and other incentives which shall be available to deserving students in both public and private schools, especially to the underprivileged.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms*. For purposes of this Act, the terms are defined as follow:

a) Local folk histories refer to significant narratives and/or stories on the cosmogony and origin of things, localities, events and/or ethos of people which are transmitted from one generation to the next either through oral traditions or other forms of indigenous cultural transmissions other than the conventional style of recording narratives and/or stories;

b) Oral traditions refer to the verbal method of transmitting local folk information through the aid of so-called culture-bearers as media;

c) Research refers to the scientific conduct of recording of significant accounts on the cosmogony and origin of things, localities, events and/or ethos of people as defined in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR) of this Act and as deemed prescribed by the National Historical Institute and the Philippine Social Science Council;

d) Grant refers to the forms of incentives/benefits that are given to qualified applicants as provided for in this Act.

SEC. 4. *Research Conduct*. Researches on local folk histories shall be conducted in accordance with the specific standards provided for in the implementing rules and regulations of this Act and as deemed prescribed by the National Historical Institute and the Philippine Social Science Council.

SEC. 5. *Awarding of Grant*. The National Historical Institute shall be the sole agency authorized, under this Act, to award a research grant to qualified applicants.

SEC. 6. Grant. As general principle, all research grantees, after having duly qualified, shall be awarded the following incentives and benefits:

a) Cash award amounting to not less than the declared total research cost and expenses;

b) Intensive training on research methodology; and

c) Publication and copyrighting of completed research work;

SEC. 7. *Requisites for Qualifications*. To qualify to the Local Folk Histories Grant, the applicants must have the following qualifications:

a) Registered Filipino citizen of legal age;

b) Registered resident of the locality for at least ten (10) years;

c) Knowledgeable, both oral and written, on the folk language of the people being studied;

d) At least, college level during time of application; and

e) Willing to undergo various forms of screening process to be conducted by the National Historical Institute (NHI).

SEC. 8. *National Historical Research Center*. The National Historical Research Center, hereinafter referred to as the Center, is hereby established to monitor, implement, evaluate and approve matters pertaining to historical researches brought for its consideration and ensure the proper implementation of this Act.

SEC. 9. *Functions*. In consonance with the provision of Section 8 hereof, the Center shall have the following functions:

a) To prepare a comprehensive curriculum for an intensive training on research methodology to prospective grant applicants;

b) To provide advance education and training in the field of social science researches and methodology;

c) To spearhead the conduct of studies being undertaken by grant applicants;

d) To advise and assist other public and private agencies in the conduct of scientific approaches to historical data-gathering and studies;

e) To act as local folk history resource center in furtherance of future initiatives to professionalize the conduct of historical researches; and

f) To manage, directly or indirectly, the historical-oriented researches all over the country.

SEC. 10. *Organizational Structure, Staffing and Supervision of the Center*. The Center shall be headed by a director and who shall be assisted by a deputy director, both of whom shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines through the recommendation of the chairman of the National Historical Institute. The director and his deputy shall serve for a term of three (3) years.

The director and his deputy must be citizens of the Philippines, at least thirty (30) years of age on the day of their appointment, of good moral character, of recognized experience in historical and/or social science research and consultancy as well as executive ability and competence in the field of history and/or social science. The director and his deputy shall be responsible for the day-to-day operations of the Center as well as other administrative and supervisory functions. The director is hereby authorized to hire such technical and administrative staff and provide such compensation subject to the Salary Standardization Law, the Civil Service Law and the Civil Service rules and regulations as may be necessary to attract highly-qualified personnel and to ensure staff work of high quality.

The Center shall be attached to the National Historical Institute for purposes of supervision and program coordination.

SEC. 11. *Funding*. The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the budget of the National Historical Institute in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

SEC. 12. *Repealing Clause*. All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 13. *Separability Clause*. If, for any reason, any part or provisions thereof not affected by the provisions of this Act shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 14. *Effectivity Clause*. This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.