

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1576



Introduced by: HON. MARCELINO C. LIBANAN

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In the annals of exploration of the regions of the world, it is acknowledged that the discovery of the Philippine archipelago on March 16, 1521 by the expedition of Ferdinand Magellan completed the map of the world and confirmed that it was indeed a sphere. Thus, this feat of Ferdinand Magellan is widely hailed and recognized the world over as an achievement of surpassing importance to all mankind.

Significantly, historians and scholars, like the celebrated William Manchester, have recognized a Filipino member of the Magellan expedition by the name of Enrique as "*the first circumnavigator of the world*".

The annual commemoration of this historical event should be fittingly recognized as a national event, which can serve as a magnet for cultural tourism and cultural development, particularly in the site of the discovery, the Island of Homonhon in the Eastern Samar Province, and the entire Eastern Visayas Region.

The immediate passage and approval of this Act is earnestly urged as part of the preparations for the celebration of the quincentennial of the discovery on March 16, 2021, in cooperation with the international community.


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AN ACT
DECLARING MARCH 16 OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL DAY IN THE
NATIONAL CALENDAR TO COMMEMORATE THE DISCOVERY OF THE
PHILIPPINE ARCHIPELAGO BY FERDINAND MAGELLAN AND A
SPECIAL NON-WORKING DAY IN THE EASTERN VISAYAS REGION

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

Section 1. March sixteen of every year is hereby declared as a special day in the national calendar and a special non-working holiday in the Eastern Visayas Region to commemorate the discovery of the Philippine archipelago by Ferdinand Magellan.

Section 2. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,