

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HB NO. 3108

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

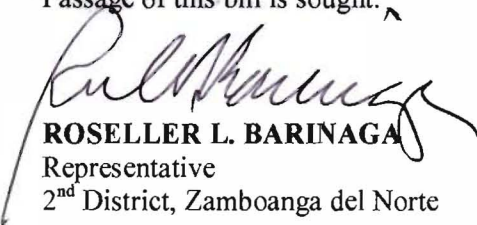
The State has the responsibility to preserve, enrich, and promote for the dynamic evolution of an authentic Filipino national history and culture. Likewise, it is mandated to work for the conservation, preservation, restoration, promotion and popularization of the nation's historical and cultural heritage and resources. It shall use all practicable means and measures, including financial and technical assistance, to strengthen the role of the National Historical Commission by upholding its authority on historical issues, being the interpreter of Philippine history from the view of the State.

Programs to effect the enhancement of national identity from Philippine history, culture and national heritage shall be pursued.

Policies and programs concerned with the promotion, preservation, enrichment, and popularization of Philippine history must be rationalized to achieve in the most efficient and effective way the national goal of enhancing Filipino national identity.

The State shall furthermore institute a comprehensive program to encourage and support historical researches and studies, national and local, to ensure that Filipino scholars and researchers of Philippine history shall have more access to scholarships, grants and other similar incentives in order to promote, propagate and popularize scholarly historical endeavors. Toward this end, it shall establish and maintain a system of scholarships, grants, loan programs, subsidies and other incentives, especially in the provincial levels.

Passage of this bill is sought.



ROSELLER L. BARINAGA

Representative

2nd District, Zamboanga del Norte

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HB NO. 3108

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

AN ACT

RENAMING THE NATIONAL HISTORICAL INSTITUTE (NHI) TO NATIONAL HISTORICAL COMMISSION (NHC), INSTUTIONALIZING REORGANIZATION THEREOF, PROVIDING FOR THE IMPROVEMENT AND STRENGHTENING OF ITS POWERS AND FUNCTIONS AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

ARTICLE I – Title

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* This act shall be known as the “National Historical Commission Act of 2004”.

ARTICLE II – General Principles

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* It is hereby declared the policy of the State to foster the preservation, enrichment, and dynamic evolution of an authentic Filipino national history and culture. To this end, programs to effect the enhancement of national identity from Philippine history, culture and national heritage shall be pursued.

Policies and programs concerned with the promotion, preservation, enrichment, and popularization of Philippine history must be rationalized to achieve in the most efficient and effective way the national goal of enhancing Filipino national identity.

The State shall further work for the conservation, preservation, restoration, promotion and popularization of the nation’s historical and cultural heritage and resources. It shall use all practicable means and measures, including financial and technical assistance, to strengthen the role of the National Historical Commission by upholding its authority on historical issues, being the interpreter of Philippine history from the view of the State.

The State shall furthermore institute a comprehensive program to encourage and support historical researches and studies, national and local, to ensure that Filipino scholars and researchers of Philippine history shall have more access to scholarships, grants and other similar incentives in order to promote, propagate and popularize scholarly historical endeavors. Toward this end, it shall establish and maintain a system of scholarships, grants, loan programs, subsidies and other incentives, especially in the provincial levels.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* - For purposes of this Act, unless the context otherwise requires, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

- (a) National Shrines refers to historical sites or properties greatly hallowed or honored for their history or their association to national heroes or great leaders of the nation;
- (b) National Monuments refers to properties, natural features, or areas of special historical interest that are set aside by the local or national government as public property;
- (c) National Landmarks refers to sites or properties that are associated with an event, achievement, characteristic or modification that presents a turning point or stage in Philippine history;
- (d) Classified Historical Sites or Properties refers to sites or properties not falling under the foregoing classifications but by their very nature are of national historical significance;
- (e) National Historical Sites or Properties, as a generic term, refers to National Shrines, National Monuments, National Landmarks and Classified Historical Sites or Properties as defined in subparagraphs (a), (b), (c) and (d) of this Section and declared as such pursuant to the provisions of this Act.
- (f) Local Historical Sites or Properties refers to historical sites or properties though not of national significance but nonetheless figure in the history of a region, province or municipality in the country.
- (g) NHI refers to the National Historical Institute organized under PD No. 1, dated September 24, 1972.
- (h) NHC or Commission refers to the National Historical Commission which is the NHI as renamed, reorganized and strengthened pursuant to this Act.
- (i) Conservation is intended as a means to safeguarding historical and cultural heritage, with a view to suitably adapting it to the society, through technical, legislative, financial, fiscal, educational and other measures.
- (j) Preservation is the act of maintaining authenticity or keeping anything valuable, and safeguarding it from alteration, decay or destruction.
- (k) Restoration is the technical means of conserving. This can either be static (i.e. the direct intervention on the material or fabric of the object restored), or dynamic (i.e. relating to the technique and manner by which the object can be preserved or protected without direct intervention on its material or fabric).

SEC. 4. **Rationalization.** - The NHI is hereby renamed and reorganized as the Commission. The exclusive administrative, financial and other pertinent jurisdictions of the National Commission on Culture and the Arts (NCCA) relative to the existence and operation of the NHI are hereby transferred to the Office of the President, thereby rationalizing, structurally and functionally, the Commission, in accordance with this Act.

SEC. 5. **General Mandate.** - Pursuant to Section 2 of this Act, the Commission is hereby mandated to work for the promotion, conservation, preservation, restoration, enrichment, and popularization of Philippine history and cultural heritage by undertaking, among other, scholarly endeavors on Philippine history and national heroes, encouraging historical education activities, including the widening of local historical committee network; and managing and safeguarding the conservation and preservation of National Historical Sites or Properties and maintaining the same as well as other components of Philippine material culture of historical value.

ARTICLE III – Board of Commissioners

SEC. 6. **NHC Board of Commissioners.** - There is hereby established a Board of Commissioners, hereinafter referred to as the Board, in the NHC which shall assume the mandate and functions of the NHI Board of Directors. The Board shall have the following functions:

- (a) Set policies and guidelines governing Philippine historical studies;
- (b) Formulate policies, initiate and undertake, with the assistance of the private sector as available, the promotion, protection, conservation, preservation, restoration, operation, and/or maintenance of National or Local Historical Sites or Properties that have been or, pursuant to the provisions of this Act, may hereafter be declared, designated and established as such;
- (c) Determine the policies in the acquisition of historical relics and memorabilia of heroes and other illustrious Filipinos;
- (d) Approve acts of donations;
- (e) In coordination with the Commission on the Filipino Language, undertake the translation of its work and materials into the national language;
- (f) Acquire by donation, exchange or any other means, historical objects, including relics and memorabilia of national heroes and illustrious Filipinos, and cause their conservation, preservation and restoration;
- (g) Coordinate with concerned agencies in the collection, identification, classification, reproduction, and release of archival materials and other historical papers in the possession of government agencies;
- (h) Coordinate with the Department of Tourism, to the extent appropriate and necessary for historico-cultural tourism as determined by the Board, on activities and programs towards the promotion, protection, conservation and preservation of National Historical Sites or Properties declared as such;
- (i) Resolve controversial and conflicting issues of Philippine history;
- (j) Recommend to the President the declaration of special public holidays in honor of illustrious Filipinos as well as the declaration of national icons; and
- (k) Perform such other tasks as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 7. **Composition of the Board.** - The Board shall be composed of the following:

- (a) Chairperson who shall hold office for a period of six years;
- (b) Six (6) commissioners who shall hold office for a period of six years: *Provided*, That in the first appointments, two (2) Commissioners shall serve for three years, another two (2) Commissioners for four years, another for five years and the last Commissioner to serve for six years.
- (c) All appointments to the Board shall be made by the President of the Philippines upon the recommendation of various credible private and public entities, including the academe, which are concerned with the promotion, protection, conservation, preservation, restoration, enrichment, and popularization of Philippine history and cultural heritage.

SEC. 8. ***Qualifications of Commissioners.*** - The Chairperson and the six (6) Commissioners shall have the following qualifications:

- (a) Filipino citizens and bona fide residents of the Philippines;
- (b) At least thirty five (35) years old at the time of appointment;
- (c) Distinguished themselves in historical research and writing for at least ten (10) years;
- (d) At least the holder of an M.A. in History or any related Social Science degree, with solid academic and scholarly credentials, and of good moral character; and
- (e) Preferably, a member of good standing for at least five (5) years of a recognized and credible organization or society concerned with the promotion, protection, conservation, preservation, restoration, enrichment, and popularization of Philippine history and cultural heritage.

SEC. 9. ***Compensation and Other Emoluments.*** - The Chairperson and other Commissioners shall receive an honorarium for every official meeting attended and shall be entitled to other incidental expenses arising out of their official functions subject to pertinent laws and regulations. The Chairperson, however, may serve full-time in which case he shall be entitled to salaries, emoluments and other benefits similar to those enjoyed by Chairpersons of other Government Commissions, all in accordance with existing laws and regulations.

ARTICLE IV – National Secretariat

SEC. 10. ***National Secretariat.*** – (a) There shall be a National Secretariat within the NHC. It shall be headed by a full-time Executive Director who shall be assisted by a Deputy Executive Director for Administration and Finance and another Deputy Executive Director for Operations.

- (b) The National Secretariat shall serve as the policy and technical support arm of the Commission. It shall provide policy analyses, assistance in planning and policy formulation, coordination, advocacy, evaluation, and monitoring of program implementation. It shall perform such other functions as may be assigned to it by the Board or the Chairperson to achieve the purposes of this Act.

SEC. 11. ***Office of the Executive Director.*** - The Executive Director, who shall be under the control and supervision of the Chairperson, shall have the following functions:

- (a) Develop and recommend programs on the study and popularization of Philippine history as well as the promotion, protection, maintenance, conservation, preservation and restoration of National Historical Sites or Properties, memorabilia of heroes and other illustrious Filipinos and other historical objects;
- (b) Implement the policies and standards established by the Board or the Chairperson;
- (c) Implement rules and regulations necessary to carry out the objectives and functions of the Commission;
- (d) Coordinate with cultural agencies and other institutions, both government and private, in the development and implementation of history-related activities;
- (e) Subject to the approval of the Board, receive donations, grants, funds, materials and services necessary or appropriate to promote or achieve the mandate of the Commission;

- (f) Study and recommend, in accordance with the policy of the Board, to the Office of the President, heraldic requirements of the national, local and other government offices, agencies or instrumentalities;
- (g) Exercise overall supervision and control of the Secretariat personnel; and
- (h) Perform such other functions as may be determined by the Board or the Chairperson.

SEC. 12. ***Office of the Deputy Executive Directors.*** - The Deputy Executive Directors shall have the following functions as may be assigned to each concerned Deputy Executive Director by the Chairperson:

- (a) Subject to established policies, assist the Executive Director in overseeing the operations of the Commission;
- (b) Assist in the maintenance of linkages between the Commission and other institutions, both local and foreign, concerned with the promotion, protection, conservation, preservation, restoration, enrichment, and popularization of Philippine history and cultural heritage;
- (c) Coordinate the Commission's activities and programs with their respective line-divisions; and advise and supervise chiefs of concerned offices in conducting their activities in accordance with the plans and programs approved by the Board or the Chairperson; and
- (d) Perform such other functions as may be determined by the Board or the Chairperson.

ARTICLE V – NHC Offices

SEC. 13. ***Offices under the NHC Executive Director.*** - The following offices, each to be headed by a Chief, shall be under the control and supervision of the Executive Director;

- (a) Office of Administration and Finance;
- (b) Office of Historical Conservation and Preservation;
- (c) Office of Historical Information and Education;
- (d) Office of Historical Research, Publication and Extension; and
- (e) Office of Monuments and Heraldry.

SEC. 14. ***Office of Administration and Finance.*** - The existing Administrative Division of the NHI is hereby renamed the Office of Administration and Finance of the NHC which shall have the following functions:

- (a) Administer all personnel matters including the implementation of personnel training programs and support services;
- (b) Provide concerned officials of the Commission with the necessary information in planning, directing and coordinating their activities;
- (c) Procure, store, and distribute supplies, materials and equipment necessary in the operations of the Commission and maintain a centralized recording system; and
- (d) Perform such other functions as may be determined by the Executive Director.

SEC. 15. ***Office of Historical Conservation and Preservation.*** - The existing Historic Preservation Division of the NHI is hereby renamed the Office of Historical Conservation and Preservation of the NHC which shall have the following functions:

- (a) Promote or undertake the conservation, preservation or restoration of National Historical Sites or Properties declared as such by the Commission;
- (b) Survey, inventory, identify, classify and register historical sites or properties and maintain the National Registry of Historical Sites or Properties;
- (c) Implement the provisions of Presidential Decree (PD) No. 260 as amended by PD 1505;
- (d) Provide technical assistance to various entities for promotion, conservation, preservation and restoration of historical sites or properties;
- (e) Store, protect, conserve and preserve documents and records of permanent and historical value; and
- (f) Perform such other functions as may be determined by the Executive Director;

SEC. 16. ***Office of Historical Information and Education.*** - The existing Historical Education Division of the NHI is hereby renamed the Office of Historical Information and Education of the NHC which shall have the following functions:

- (a) Conduct historical educational activities including lectures, conferences, workshops, seminars, symposia, tours and exhibits on Philippine history and cultural heritage;
- (b) Develop historical educational strategies in urban and rural areas;
- (c) Arrange and maintain film and audio-visual collections relating to Philippine history and cultural heritage;
- (d) Encourage, support, and strengthen the formation and organization of local historical societies; coordinate with and provide assistance to affiliate historical associations;
- (e) Provide multi-media support to the programs and projects of the Commission including, among others, producing with and/or assisting other government offices in the production of documentary films, radio serials, TV programs, stage presentations and other suitable productions on the lives of great Filipinos or on events of historical importance to enhance public interest in Philippine history and cultural heritage;
- (f) Prepare historical educational materials such as write-ups, press releases and articles on historical events or on eminent personages;
- (g) Plan, prepare, arrange and implement fitting activities to honor selected Filipino heroes and commemorate significant events and birth anniversaries or centenaries of Filipino heroes or historical events and to take charge of all historical activities or projects not otherwise undertaken by any entity or agency of the government;
- (h) With the approval of the Board, identify and mark places, sites and properties of historical significance with appropriate historical markers, including those associated with historical figures; and
- (i) Perform such other functions as may be determined by the Executive Director.

SEC. 17. ***Office of Historical Research, Publication and Extension.*** - The existing Research and Publication Division of the NHI is hereby renamed the Office of Historical Research, Publication and Extension of the NHC which shall have the following functions:

- (a) Promote and conduct historical research or study programs, including the translation and publication or dissemination of historical researches on Philippine history and cultural heritage, both written and oral, here and abroad;
- (b) Undertake documentation, authentication and evaluation of works on various aspects of Philippine history, including controversial and conflicting issues to be submitted to the Board for approval;
- (c) Acquire rare and contemporary Filipiniana materials, including books and manuscripts;
- (d) Publish works of national heroes and other eminent Filipinos, including reports, records and other valuable information related to historical sites, events and personages; undertake the survey and inventory of historical works and documents; and
- (e) Perform such other functions as may be determined by the Executive Director

SEC. 18. ***Office of Monuments and Heraldry.*** - The existing Monuments and Heraldry Division of the NHI is hereby renamed the Office of Monuments and Heraldry of the NHC which shall have the following functions:

- (a) Maintain, operate and take care of all National Historical Sites or Properties including relics, manuscripts, memorabilia of national heroes and other illustrious Filipinos and other objects of historical value;
- (b) Promote the National Historical Sites or Properties by maintaining, operating and administering, among others, souvenir shops and other facilities;
- (c) Prepare all specifications governing the manufacture of heraldic items and devices and manufacture, or supervise the manufacture of such, including the implementation of the provisions of Executive Order Nos. 558 and 697 governing National Flag Specifications; and
- (d) Perform such other functions as may be determined by the Executive Director.

ARTICLE VI – Special Centers

SEC. 19. ***Establishment of Special Centers.*** - There are established hereunder special centers in various offices within the NHC to complement the functions and operations of the offices created under this Act as follows:

- (a) Historical Research Resource Center;
- (b) Historical Building Survey and Documentation Center;
- (c) Materials Conservation Center; and
- (d) Local Historical Committee Network.

SEC. 20. ***Historical Research Resource Center.*** - The Office of Historical Research, Publication and Extension shall operate and maintain the Historical Research Resource Center which shall have the following functions:

- (a) Provide historical research services to the public by maintaining a historical data bank;
- (b) Compile and acquire from various sources here and abroad data, documents, materials or objects relating on historical personages and events, including rare and Filipiniana materials, through purchase, donation, exchange, or through any other manner; such documents or objects may include the documentation of local folk histories and oral traditions;
- (c) Enter into negotiations and agreements, subject to the approval of the Board, with institutions and individuals for purposes of securing original documents or copies, photostat and micro-films thereof, dealing with the Philippine history and cultural heritage;
- (d) Develop linkages and coordinate with State Universities and Colleges (SUCs) and private institutions of higher learning regarding the historical research advocacy of the Center thereby establishing arrangements with such institutions for the propagation of joint historical research and training endeavors including the promotion of extensive training of those who teach history, seminars and workshops on data-gathering and the collection of other relevant sources of historical data, and the documentation of local folk histories and oral traditions; and
- (e) Coordinate, network, cooperate, collaborate, co-sponsor, employ, utilize, and/or have recourse to the expertise and organizational competence of local folks and existing local historical associations, clubs and organizations through the Regional Historical Centers, as established pursuant to this Act;
- (f) Prepare and provide a comprehensive curriculum for an intensive training on research methodology to history scholars and enthusiasts;
- (g) Spearhead, encourage or support, directly or indirectly, the conduct of studies being undertaken by history scholars and history enthusiasts around the country;
- (h) Advise and assist other public and private agencies in the conduct of scientific approaches to historical studies and data-gathering techniques; and
- (i) Perform such other functions as may be determined by the Executive Director.

SEC. 21. *Historical Research Scholarships and Grant Programs for Filipino Scholars and Enthusiasts.* – (a) The NHC, through its Historical Research Resource Center, shall prepare, plan and carry out a comprehensive historical research scholarships and grants program for Filipino scholars and enthusiasts of Philippine history. Said Center shall be the sole agency of the NHC authorized under this Act to award research scholarships and grants to qualified applicants. Private individuals, agencies and institutions shall also be encouraged to pursue the same scholarly undertaking to assist Filipino scholars and enthusiasts of Philippine history to develop and enhance their scholarly skills for historical research.

- (b) The Center shall monitor, evaluate and approve proposals pertaining to historical researches brought for its consideration and ensure the proper implementation of the policies set forth by the Board regarding the standards, methodology and ethics observed in the conduct of historical research.
- (c) All historical researches to be conducted under the auspices of the Center shall be required to submit at least a copy of their historical researches to the NHC.
- (d) The Commission, through its Historical Research Resource Center, shall also prepare and plan out a comprehensive historical research scholarships and grants program for the professional

advancement of its own personnel both in the national and local levels, subject to the policies and standards established by the Board.

SEC. 22. ***Funding for Research.*** - The yearly amount equivalent to two million pesos, to be increased by an additional one (1) million pesos every three (3) years thereafter, shall be appropriated from the annual income of the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO) for the purpose of supporting the implementation of the projects undertaken pursuant to the provisions of Sections 20 and 21 of this Act. Such appropriations shall be included in the budget allocation of the PCSO the year following the enactment of ~~this Act~~ and every year thereafter