

**Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila**

Thirteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 5287



Introduced by Honorable Catalino V. Figueroa

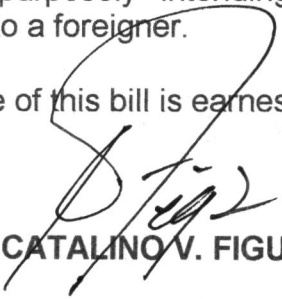
EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to provide for an expedient manner by which Philippine citizenship maybe reacquired.

Under Section 1 of Commonwealth Act 63, as amended, a Filipino citizen may lose his citizenship by naturalization in a foreign country; by express renunciation of citizenship; by subscribing to an oath of allegiance to support the Constitution or laws of a foreign country; by rendering service to, or accepting commission in the armed forces of a foreign country; by cancellation of the certificate of naturalization; by being declared by competent authority a deserter of the Philippine Armed Forces in time of war; and, in the case of a woman, upon her marriage to a foreigner, if by virtue of the laws in force in her husband's country, she acquires his nationality.

Section 4 of Commonwealth Act 63 and Presidential Decree N. 725 provide for reacquisition of Philippine citizenship. The procedures, however, are cumbersome, tedious and expensive. There is, therefore, need for new legislation to address the concerns of former Filipino citizens who, by force of necessity, have applied for naturalization elsewhere but now wish to return to the Philippines as Filipinos. It behooves our government to welcome them as returning sons by giving them the opportunity to recover their lost citizenship in the fastest possible manner. This bill also seeks to liberalize the procedure by which Filipino women, who without purposely intending to abandon their citizenship, lose it because of marriage to a foreigner.

In view of its importance, passage of this bill is earnestly recommended.


CATALINO V. FIGUEROA

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**AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE REACQUISITION OF PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP,
AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE COMMONWEALTH ACT NO 63.**

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

SECTION 1. Section 2 of Commonwealth Act No. 63 is hereby amended
to read as follows:

"Section 2. How citizenship may be reacquired. —

Citizenship may be reacquired:

- (1) By naturalization: Provided, that the applicant possesses none of the disqualifications prescribed in section two of Act Numbered Twenty-Nine Hundred and Twenty Seven.
- (2) By repatriation of deserters of the Army, Navy or Air Corp.
- (3) By direct Act of the National Assembly.
- (4) By taking an oath of allegiance before the Commissioner of the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation, the applicant declaring that he renounces absolutely and perpetually all faith and allegiance to the foreign authority, state or sovereignty of which he was subject: Provided, however, that this mode of reacquisition of citizenship can be availed of only by (a) Filipinos who lost Philippine citizenship by naturalization in a foreign

country; and (b) natural-born Filipino women who lost Philippine citizenship by reason only of their marriage to a foreigner.”

SECTION 2. The Commissioner of the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation shall issue the necessary rules and regulations and prescribe the appropriate forms and required fees to implement the provisions of this law.

SECTION 3. Presidential Decree No. 725 is hereby repealed.

SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect after its publication once a week for two weeks in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,