

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
SECOND REGULAR SESSION

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. **1579**

Submitted by the Committee on Justice on _____

Re: House Bill No. 5277

Recommending its approval with amendments

Sponsors: Representatives Niel C. Tupas, Jr. and Kimi S. Cojuangco

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Justice to which was referred House Bill No. 5277, introduced by Representative Kimi S. Cojuangco, entitled:

**"AN ACT
GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO JESSIE JOSEPHINE C. LICHAUCO"**

has considered the same and recommends its approval with the following amendments:

1. On page 1, insert a new Section 2 to read as follows:

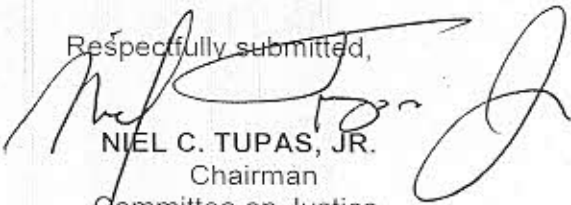
"SEC. 2. Upon the taking of the oath of allegiance to the Republic of the Philippines before the Bureau of Immigration and the issuance to him of the Certificate of Naturalization, Jessie Josephine Coe Lichauco shall enter upon the full enjoyment of Philippine citizenship."

2. Delete Section 2 and in lieu thereof, insert a new Section 3 to read as follows:

"SEC. 3. This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from its complete publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation."

with Representatives Kimi S. Cojuangco, Niel C. Tupas, Jr., Rodolfo C. Fariñas, Federico Quimbo, David Kho and Roilo Golez as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted,


NIEL C. TUPAS, JR.
Chairman
Committee on Justice

The Honorable
The Speaker
House of Representatives
Quezon City

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 5277

Introduced by Honorable Kimi S. Cojuangco

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This proposed measure which seeks to grant Philippine citizenship to Jessie Josephine C. Lichauco was originally filed as House Bill No. 6217 by former Congw. Ma. Clarissa O. Cosculuella during her incumbency as a Member of the 14th Congress. The bill had passed consideration by the Committee on Justice, and a committee report was submitted on 01 September 2009 which recommends, among others, the approval thereof. With the closing of the 14th Congress, this piece of legislation was eventually archived.

In recognition however of the invaluable contribution/s of Jessie Josephine C. Lichauco to the Philippine society, this author has decided to re-file the same bill, adopting the same justifications and reasons which were submitted by the original author to elicit the approval by Congress.

Thus, for purposes of ease of reference, hereunder are the legal basis for this bill, and facts surrounding the life of Jessie Josephine C. Lichauco and her contribution to Philippine society.

Under Article IV, Section 1 of the Constitution, Congress is empowered to pass laws granting Philippine citizenship to foreigners who have rendered outstanding service to the country and to the Filipino people.

This bill seeks to grant Philippine citizenship to Jessie Josephine Coe Lichauco, with all the rights, privileges, duties and obligations appurtenant to such grant under the Constitution.

Jessie Josephine Coe Lichauco is an American who was born in Cuba but raised in Florida by her relatives after she was orphaned as a young girl. While studying in Washington, D.C., she met Marcial P. Lichauco, then a young Filipino lawyer working with OSROX Philippine Independence Mission. Upon Marcial's invitation, Jessie Lichauco came to the Philippines in 1933, and the two were married in the same year.

Since then, Jessie Lichauco has lived in the Philippines and claimed the country and its people as her own. Jessie Lichauco joined the Asociacion de Damas de Filipinas and devoted her work towards the Settlement House. During World War II, she suffered together with Filipinos, and aided those of them in need, sheltering them in her home and supporting efforts to reach prisoners of war. During the liberation when Manila was bombarded, Jessie and Marcial Lichauco opened their Sta. Ana home to fleeing citizens and provided for a make-shift hospital where at least 2000 people were cared for.

After the war, Jessie Lichauco devoted her energies to the Settlement House, of which she was President for 9 years. She was also one of the founding members of the Red Feather Agency, later known as the Community Chest, an organization that raises funds and distributes them to member charitable agencies. In her own capacity, she has also helped over 100 young people in completing their education.

Between 1963-66, Marcial Lichauco was appointed Philippine ambassador to the United Kingdom, Denmark, Norway, and Sweden by then President Diosdado Macapagal. Jessie Lichauco served as the Ambassador's hostess, representing the Philippines with pride and dignity in international organizations, social events and activities involving the diplomatic corps. The Ambassador's home in Palace Green was open to Filipino students, business people, and a wide spectrum of workers and travelers from the Philippines. Dozens of Filipinos have stories of being welcomed and assisted within the protective umbrella her home provided.

After her husband's death in 1971, Jessie Lichauco spent some years in the United States of America, again opening her home in Massachusetts to Filipino students and scholars needing a place to stay. But her century-old home by the Pasig River in Sta. Ana remains full of historical memorabilia, making it not only a repository of Filipino history, but a haven for travelers, friends and local residents alike.

Out of her 99 years of age, Jessie Lichauco has spent 75 years in the Philippines, claiming this country as her home, speaking the Filipino language and embracing the Filipino culture.

In recognition of the invaluable service rendered to the Filipino nation, this bill proposes that Jessie Josephine Coe Lichauco be granted by Congress the honor of Philippine citizenship with all the rights, privileges, duties and obligations appurtenant thereto and with the same effects and subject to the same conditions as provided under the Constitution. For these reasons, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


HON. KIMI S. COJUANGCO

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5277

Introduced by Honorable Kimi S. Cojuangco

AN ACT
GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO JESSIE JOSPEHINE C.
LICHAUCO

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

SECTION 1. Jessie Josephine Coe Lichauco is hereby granted Philippine citizenship with all the rights, privileges, duties and obligations appurtenant thereto and with the same effects and subject to the same conditions as provided under the Constitution.

Sec. 2. This Act shall take effect upon approval.

Approved,

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE

FOR : **THE HONORABLE SPEAKER**
FELICIANO BELMONTE, JR.

THRU : **Atty. ARLENE DADA-ARNALDO**
Deputy Secretary General, Committee Affairs Department

RE : **SPOT REPORT ON THE MEETING OF THE COMMITTEE ON JUSTICE ON**
28 SEPTEMBER 2011 AT 1:30 P.M., RE: GRANTING OF PHILIPPINE
CITIZENSHIP TO MR. BRUCE McTAVISH, MR. DENNIS MARTIN, AND
MS. JOSEPHINE LICHAUCO, ANDAYA HALL, HOUSE OF
REPRESENTATIVES, QUEZON CITY

DATE : 28 September 2011

1. House Bill Nos. 1445, 4040 and 5277 re: Grant of Philippine Citizenship

a. Major issues/positions and views aired

- The sponsors, Reps. Carmelo Lazatin for Mr. McTavish, Isidro Rodriguez for Mr. Martin, and Kimi Cojuangco for Ms. Lichauco, all contended that HB Nos. 1445, 4040 and 5277 had been approved in the previous Congress by the Committee. Citing Sec. 48 of the Rules of the House of Representatives on Bills and Resolutions Favorably Acted Upon, the sponsors moved for the approval of the measures.

b. Agreement reached/Decision made

- There being no objection for the approval of the measures, House Bill Nos. 1445, 4040, and 5277 were simultaneously approved, subject to the submission of clearances from the National Bureau of Investigation (NBI) and the Bureau of Immigration (BI) that all applicants have no derogatory or criminal record.
- Hon. Roilo Golez was made co-author of HB Nos. 1445, 4040, and 5277.
- All Members present, namely, Reps. Kho, Tupas, Quimbo, and Fariñas were made co-authors of HB No. 5277.

2. House Bill No. 3309 re: NBI Modernization Act

a. Major issues/positions and views aired

- House Bill No. 3309 will be consolidated with House Bill No. 385 which was already approved by the Committee on Government Reorganization. A substitute bill has already been crafted which is now pending with the Committee on Appropriations.
- The NBI representatives need sufficient time to study HB No. 3309 and compare it with the said substitute bill.

b. Agreement reached/Decision made

- The consideration of HB No. 3309 authored by Hon. Roger Mercado re: NBI Modernization Act was suspended for the next meeting.

Prepared by:



Atty. NARCISA H. GUEVARRA
Committee Secretary

Noted by:



Atty. DAVID ROBERT U. AMORIN
Service Director, Cluster 5 (Legal and Political 1) CAD

CC:

The Deputy Speaker
The Chairperson, Committee on Rules
Honorable Secretary General, House of Representatives
Executive Director, Committee Affairs Department
Deputy Executive Director, Committee Affairs Department
Service Director, CASS