

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1016



Introduced by Hon. Jerry P. Treñas

EXPLANATORY NOTE

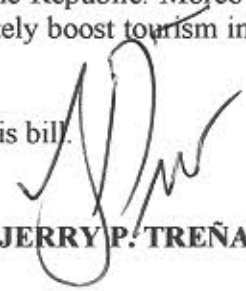
This bill seeks to declare the 25th of August of every year as a special non-working holiday in the City of Iloilo, in celebration of the Iloilo City Chartered Day. It was approved as on third reading by the House of Representatives as House Bill No. 3800 in the 15th Congress but was not tackled at the committee level in the Senate.

On July 16, 1937, under Commonwealth Act No.158, the surrounding towns of Lapaz, Mandurriao, Molo and Arevalo were absorbed and incorporated with the Municipality of Iloilo to form the City of Iloilo. The city was inaugurated on **August 25, 1937**. Henceforth, August 25 became known as the Iloilo City Charter Day.

Iloilo is a city rich in culture and history. The city's importance was recognized even during the Spanish era, convincing the Spanish crown to open the port of Iloilo to foreign trade in 1855. Iloilo immediately became the center of export trade and commerce in the whole of Visayas and Mindanao during the Spanish colonial era. The town of Iloilo was widely considered in the 19th century as one of the most important commercial centers in the Philippines outside of Manila. During the Commonwealth Era under the Americans, Iloilo City prospered and was called as the "Queen City of the South".

The City of Iloilo is the capital city of the province of Iloilo. It is the regional center of education, trade and government of the Western Visayas region. The celebration of its charter day, therefore, is a very meaningful occasion for the residents of Iloilo City. In order to commemorate the founding of their city, the people of Iloilo deserve to have a local non-working holiday on the 25th of August of every year. Declaring August 25 a holiday will optimize the participation of all sectors of society in Iloilo City, allowing the Iloilo residents to engage in the festivities and programs that shall honor the historical significance of the day Iloilo became a city of the Republic. Moreover, a local non-working holiday every August 25 in the City of Iloilo will definitely boost tourism in the region and encourage a better appreciation of the city's history and culture.

In view of the foregoing, I highly encourage the approval of this bill.


JERRY P. TREÑAS

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

AN ACT DECLARING AUGUST 25 OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL NON-WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE CITY OF ILOILO TO CELEBRATE THE "ILOILO CITY CHARTER DAY".

Section 1. August 25 of every year is hereby declared as a special non-working holiday in the City of Iloilo in order to celebrate the "Iloilo City Charter Day".

Section 2. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a national newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,