

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

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS

Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 4708



Introduced by Rep. EVELIO R. LEONARDIA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

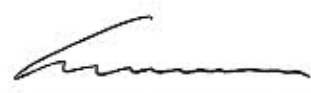
The National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP), under Republic Act No. 10086, is the primary government agency responsible for history and it has the authority to determine all factual matters relating to official Philippine history. Under Section 13 of R.A. 7160 otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, the National Historical Institute, now renamed as the National Historical Commission of the Philippines, local government units may, in consultation with the NHCP, change the name of streets, roads, schools, health facilities or any other public place or building within their territorial jurisdiction. Consonant to the said law, the NHCP has provided guidelines in changing the names of streets, roads, schools, health facilities or any other public place or building within the territorial jurisdiction of the local government units concerned. The guidelines reiterate the need for a local government unit to consult with the NHCP prior to changing names of streets, roads, etc.

The term "consultation" however, in the strict sense of the word, only denotes an act of seeking to discuss with or to elicit advice from an expert. Thus, it may be inferred that the provision of R.A. 7160 only requires the act of seeking advice from the NHCP but it does not require the local government unit to comply with the regulations or guidelines it may impose.

In an article published in the 23 September 2006 issue of the Manila Times, Carminda R. Arevalo, Supervising History Researcher of the National Historical Institute, reported NHCP's observation that local government units fail to strictly follow R.A. 7160. Many street names around the nation have been changed without consultation with the NHCP, contrary to the said provision of the Local Government Code of 1991.

The failure to comply with the said law and the lack of the favorable recommendation of the NHCP render inutile the mandate of the latter to protect our history and culture. Moreover, future generations stand to lose their sense of history with the unbridled changes made by local government units absent the positive action of the NHCP.

As such, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought in order to give meaning and effectivity to the mandate of the NHCP of preserving our national and cultural heritage.


Rep. EVELIO R. LEONARDIA
Lone District of Bacolod

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AN ACT
AMENDING SECTION 13 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS
THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991

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

SECTION 1. Section 13 of Republic Act No. 7160 known as the Local Government Code of 1991 is hereby amended as follows:

“SECTION 13. Naming of Local Government Units and Public Places, Streets and Structures.

(a) The Sangguniang Panlalawigan may, after prior consultation with and with the favorable recommendation of the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP), change the name of the following within its territorial jurisdiction:

- (1) Component cities and municipalities, upon the recommendation of the sanggunian concerned;
- (2) Provincial roads, avenues, boulevards, thoroughfares, and bridges;
- (3) Public vocational or technical schools and other post-secondary and tertiary schools;
- (4) Provincial hospitals, health centers, and other health facilities; and
- (5) Any other public place or building owned by the provincial government.

(b) The Sanggunians of highly urbanized cities and of component cities whose charters prohibit their voters from voting for provincial elective officials, hereinafter referred to in this Code as independent component cities, may, after prior consultation with and with the favorable recommendation of the NHCP, change the name of the following within its territorial jurisdiction:

- (1) City barangays, upon the recommendation of the sangguniang barangay concerned;
- (2) City roads, avenues, boulevards, thoroughfares, and bridges;
- (3) Public elementary, secondary and vocational or technical schools, community colleges and non-chartered colleges;
- (4) City hospitals, health centers, and other health facilities; and

(5) Any other public place or building owned by the city government.

(c) The Sanggunians of component cities and municipalities may, after prior consultation with and with the favorable recommendation of the NHCP, change the name of the following within its territorial jurisdiction:

- (1) City and municipal barangays, upon recommendation of the sangguniang barangay concerned;
- (2) City, municipal and barangay roads, avenues, boulevards, thoroughfares, and bridges;
- (3) City and municipal public elementary, secondary and vocational or technical schools, post-secondary and other tertiary schools;
- (4) City and municipal hospitals, health centers and other health facilities; and
- (5) Any other public place or building owned by the municipal government.

(d) None of the foregoing local government units, institutions, places, or buildings shall be named after a living person, nor may a change of name be made unless for a justifiable reason and, in any case, not oftener than once every ten (10) years. The name of a local government unit or a public place, street or structure with historical, cultural, or ethnic significance shall not be changed, unless after prior consultation with and with the favorable recommendation of the NHCP and by a unanimous vote of the Sanggunian concerned.

(e) xxxx

(f) xxxx

(g) xxxx

(h) xxxx“

SECTION 2. All laws, executive orders, rules and regulations, or any part thereof inconsistent herewith are deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,