

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

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **7125**



Introduced by HON. ROGELIO D. PACQUIAO

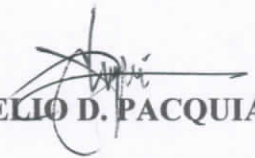
EXPLANATORY NOTE

About ninety percent of the Philippine population is Christian, based on 2015 data of the National Statistics Authority. This makes our country the largest Christian nation in the Asia-Pacific, and the fifth largest in the world.

At the core of Christian belief is the Bible, its Holy Book. Sermons and Homilies of Christian churches dwell in its teachings. It forms and transforms the lives of people across generations. It serves as the foundation of spiritual, moral and social fiber, molding a socially responsible citizenry and a strong nation.

The significance of the Holy Bible was recognized by former Presidents Ferdinand Marcos, Corazon Aquino, and Fidel Ramos in Presidential Proclamations 2242, 44, and 1067, respectively. These proclamations were instrumental in establishing the last week of January of every year as the "National Bible Week". This bill takes a step further, and seeks to emphasize the holiness of The Living Truth by allotting a holiday for its celebration on every last Monday of January, which shall be known as the "National Bible Day." This calls for all Christians throughout the archipelago to unite and celebrate the Bible as the cradle of faith.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


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**AN ACT DECLARING THE LAST MONDAY OF JANUARY OF EVERY YEAR A
REGULAR HOLIDAY, TO BE KNOWN AS "NATIONAL BIBLE DAY"**

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

Section 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the "*National Bible Day Act*."

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to aid and encourage the development of moral character and spiritual foundation of the Filipino people. As a Christian-majority nation, this Act recognizes the value of the Holy Bible as the core of Christian faith.

Section 3. The National Bible Day. – The last Monday of January of every year thereafter is declared the "National Bible Day," and the same is hereby made a national regular holiday.

Section 4. Amendment to the Administrative Code. Section 26, Chapter 7, Book I of Executive Order No. 292, otherwise known as "The Administrative Code of 1987," as amended, is further amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 26. *Regular Holidays and Nationwide Special Days.* –

Unless otherwise modified by law, order, or proclamation, the following regular holidays and special days shall be observed in the country:

Regular Holidays

New Year's Day	January 1
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NATIONAL BIBLE DAY	MOVABLE DATE – LAST MONDAY OF JANUARY
Maundy Thursday	Movable Date
Good Friday	Movable Date
Araw ng Kagitingan	Monday Nearest April 9
Labor Day	Monday nearest May 1
Eidul Fitr	Movable Date
Eidul Adha	Movable Date
Independence Day	Monday nearest June 12
National Heroes Day	Last Monday of August
Bonifacio Day	Monday nearest November 30
Christmas Day	December 25
Rizal Day	Monday nearest December 30

Nationwide Special Holidays

Ninoy Aquino Day	Monday nearest August 21
All Saints Day	November 1
Last Day of the Year	December 31

The terms “legal or regular holiday” and “special holiday,” as used in laws, orders, rules and regulations or other issuances shall be referred to as “regular holiday” and “special day,” respectively.”

Section 5. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, issuances, rules and regulations and any part thereof regarding national nonworking holidays which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 6. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,