

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila



SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

House Bill No. **9066**

Introduced by Representative SARAH JANE I. ELAGO - Kabataan Party-list

AN ACT
PROTECTING THE RIGHTS OF FILIPINO ARTISTS AND CULTURAL
WORKERS

Explanatory Note

State policy dictates that there must be priority given to Filipino arts and culture to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social progress and promote total human liberation and development. This must be pursued so as to promote and uphold the skills and talents of our local artists and cultural workers so as to entice them to make art for the Filipino people.

These artists and cultural workers have long used their talents to promote their advocacies especially when it comes to human rights and social justice. They have even been noted for their "protest art" or the aesthetics we see whenever mass movements occurs. From effigies, cultural performances, graffiti, and such, the people have been wowed by their talents.

Yet these art forms were not only meant to entertain. They were to communicate to us information: that the art of the Filipino artist and cultural worker is the art of the Filipino people. Through their art, they are performing our own history right in front of our eyes. They visualize to us how our social reality looks like in creative ways to enjoin the people. Their art is, and will always be for public interest.

Together, we call to uphold the rights of our artists and cultural workers.

The passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

Rep. Sarah Elago
Kabataan Partylist



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

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This act shall be known as the "Rights of Filipino Artists and
2 Cultural Workers of 2019".

3
4 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy*- It is hereby declared the policy of the State to:

- 5
6 a. Give priority to arts and culture to foster patriotism and nationalism, accelerate social
7 progress, and promote total human liberation and development;
8 b. Promote social justice in all phases of national development;
9 c. Value the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights;
10 d. Recognize the vital role of communication and information in nation-building; and
11 e. Uphold public interest.

12
13 SECTION 3. *Rights of Filipino Artists and Cultural Workers.* - The rights of Filipino Artists
14 and Cultural Workers are hereby as followed:

- 15
16 a. To express freely in any mode of art their personal views and opinions and to share
17 these art form to the public;
18 b. To use public spaces to express and present their art and cultural activities to the public;
19 c. To be provided material support especially from the Local Government Unit;
20 d. To not be censored and to uphold their freedom to be enjoyed by all;
21 e. To promote social justice and human rights in any art form these Filipino Artists and
22 Cultural Workers deem presentable to the public;
23 f. To enjoin the different sectors in society, especially the youth, in protecting and
24 promoting Filipino arts and culture;
25 g. To use art freely, especially in peaceful protests and demonstrations;

- 1 h. To be recognized for their contributions especially in promoting the Filipino culture
2 and upholding the essence of nationalism and patriotism;
3 i. To be celebrated for their efforts in exposing their view of the current status of our
4 society through the different mediums of art;
5 j. To be honored especially for maintaining Filipino arts and culture in the fast-growing
6 technological advancements in the world; and
7 k. To commemorate Filipino Artists and Cultural Workers as the protectors of our art and
8 culture
9

10 SECTION 3. *Registration and Accreditation of Filipino Artists and Cultural Workers.* - Artists
11 and Cultural Workers are to register and be accredited at any office within their Local
12 Government Unit- ranging from the Barangay level, Municipal Level, City Government, and
13 Provincial Government. Registration and accreditation of Arts and Cultural Groups must come
14 free without any fee to pay.
15

16 SECTION 4. *Activities of Filipino Artists and Cultural Workers.* - Filipino Artists and Cultural
17 Workers are to conduct "Cultural Work"- ranging from seminars, workshops, trainings,
18 educational tours, shows and presentations that are in line with the advocacy of Filipino Arts
19 and Culture.
20

21 SECTION 5. *Role of the Local Government Unit.* - Any Local Government Unit which homes
22 a Filipino Artists and Cultural Workers are mandated to do the following:
23

- 24 (a) Support and promote the activities of Filipino Artists and Cultural Workers;
25 (b) The funding of the activities of Filipino Artists and Cultural Workers will come
26 from the one (1) percent of the total income of the Local Government Unit;
27 (c) Assist in supplying and funding Filipino Arts and Cultural Groups costumes, props,
28 transportation, office supplies, and any other needs the Filipino Artists and Cultural
29 Workers may deem necessary;
30 (d) Provide free PhilHealth Coverage to the members of any Filipino Artists and
31 Cultural Workers;
32 (e) Provide free access to public facilities which includes covered courts, training halls,
33 and other spacious place for the promotion of art and culture within the Local
34 Government Unit;
35 (f) Uphold the protection of their right to expression;
36 (g) Promote the Filipino Artists and Cultural Workers in every occasion or celebration
37 of Filipino arts and culture;
38 (h) Ensure that public elementary, high school, Senior High School, and State
39 University and College be open in promoting Filipino Arts and Culture as well as
40 ensuring these institutions that each school at all levels must have a "school-based
41 Filipino Arts and Culture Organization"; and
42 (i) The Sangguniang Kabataan must first and foremost uphold the rights of these
43 Filipino Artists and Cultural Workers. A strong sense of unity between the
44 Sangguniang Kabataan and the local Filipino Artists and Cultural Workers must be
45 formed in order to further cultivate in the youth the sense of nationalism and
46 patriotism.
47

48 SECTION 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The National Commission for Culture
49 and the Arts shall formulate, within thirty (30) days from its effectivity, the rules and
50 regulations necessary to implement this Act.

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2 SECTION 6. *Appropriations.* - Such sums as may be necessary for the purpose of carrying out
3 this Act are hereby authorized to be appropriated in the General Appropriations Act.

4
5 SECTION 7. *Separability Clause.* - Should any part of this Act be declared unconstitutional
6 or invalid, the other parts or provisions hereof not affected not thereby shall continue to be in
7 full force and effect.

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9 SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, executive orders, decrees, proclamations,
10 implementing rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this
11 Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

12
13 SECTION 9. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
14 any two (2) newspaper of general circulation.

Adopted,