

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

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 7333



Introduced by Representative Bayani F. Fernando

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Throughout history, handshaking has been practiced to demonstrate camaraderie, trust, and respect. It is believed to have begun in the 5th century BC in Greece and remains a significant part of communication up to the present.

However, the medical profession has established that the traditional, well-meaning and innocent gesture of handshake transmits communicable diseases and is a risk to one's health.

Public health experts say handshakes are an effective way to spread germs and bacteria. Dr. Mark Sklansky, a professor and chief of Pediatric Cardiology Division at the University of California, Los Angeles and an advocate of ditching the handshake, said that "the handshake is such a terrible idea, from an infectious disease standpoint."

This bill seeks to institutionalize a new Filipino gesture of goodwill, praise and respect to be called "Bating Filipino" --the simple act of gracefully laying the palm of the right hand over the center of the chest with simultaneous slight head nod, closed eyes or looking down and a happy Filipino smile.

Placing the hand over the chest is a universal gesture of good faith coming from the heart, the nod conveys respect and humility, while closing the eyes or looking down signifies trust on the person.

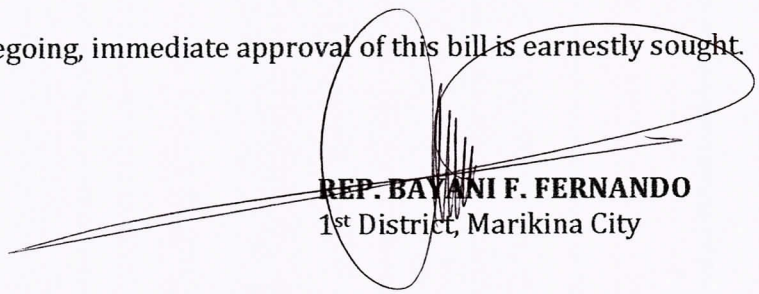
The author filed a House bill on the same subject in July 2019 but it was converted into a resolution by the Committee on Rules. The resolution was adopted by the House of Representatives on February 5, 2020 as Resolution No. 42 which urges the Philippine government to promote said gesture.

The relevance of this legislative measure becomes more pronounced as we are now suffering from a global health crisis due to the novel corona virus pandemic. Data shows that over 17 million people across the globe have already been infected with COVID-19, including the 103,185 cases in the Philippines (as of August 2, 2020) and the numbers are still rising.

Bating Filipino should be institutionalized as we take a preventive approach in the spread of communicable diseases, not just COVID-19.

The intention of this bill is in accord with Article II, Section 15 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution which mandates the State to “protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.”

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



REP. BAYANI F. FERNANDO
1st District, Marikina City

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

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 7333

Introduced by Representative Bayani F. Fernando

**AN ACT TO INSTITUTIONALIZE A NEW FILIPINO GESTURE OF
GOODWILL, PRAISE AND RESPECT**

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “Bating Filipino”.

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the declared policy of the State to protect and promote the health of every Filipino and to set standards for their protection and prevention of transmission of communicable diseases by changing the ways of Filipino greetings into a more hygienic and cleaner way. This Act will instill into the hearts and minds of every Filipino as a collective gesture of goodwill, praise and respect.

SEC. 3. Coverage – This Act shall cover all persons who is residing and can be found in the Philippines.

SEC. 4. Way of Greetings. – The new Filipino gesture of goodwill, praise and respect is done via the simple act of gracefully laying the palm of the right hand over the center of the chest with simultaneous slight head nod, closed eyes or looking down, and a happy Filipino smile.

Placing the hand over the chest is a universal gesture of good faith coming from the heart, the nod conveys respect and humility, while closing the eyes or looking down signifies trust on the person.

Sec. 5. Implementing Rules and Guidelines.— The Department of Health, Department of Education, Philippine Information Agency, Philippine, Presidential Communications Operations Office shall be the lead agency for the implementation of this Act and shall, within sixty (60) days after the approval of this Act, prepare and issue the necessary guidelines to implement the same.

All Government Agencies and instrumentalities shall allot a considerable amount of their funds for the immediate implementation, information and dissemination of this Law.

SEC. 6. Separability Clause. — If any provision of this Act is subsequently declared unconstitutional, the validity of the remaining provisions hereof shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 7. Effectivity Clause. — This Act shall take effect (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of national circulation.

Approved.