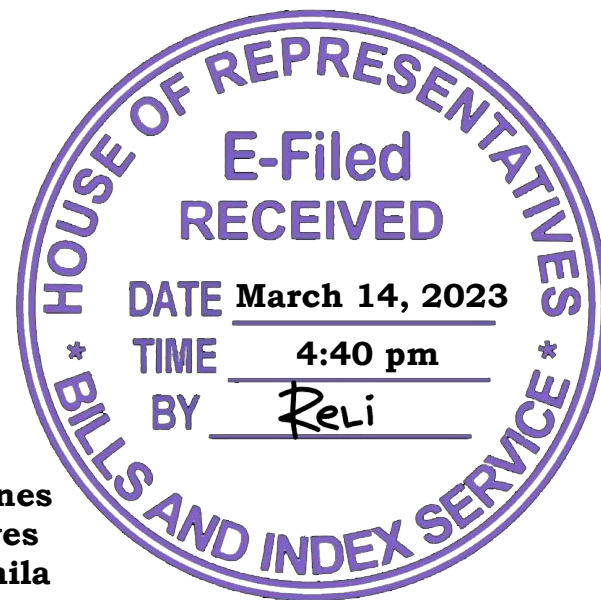




**Republic of the Philippines  
House of Representatives  
Quezon City, Metro Manila**

**Nineteenth Congress  
First Regular Session**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 7589**



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**Introduced by Representative Rudys Caesar G. Fariñas I**

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### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This proposed measure seeks to promote cultural sensitivity to Filipino Muslims, particularly Muslim women, by prohibiting restrictions on the use of traditional forms of Muslim women's attire in public places. The salient features of this bill are:

- Specific discriminatory acts, so that it shall be unlawful for any person to:
  - a. Refuse to allow Muslim women into establishments; prevent them from using facilities, utilities, or services because they are donning religious symbols or traditional clothing, such as the hijab, burqa, niqab, and the like; and
  - b. Demand that Muslim women take off their traditional clothing, such as the hijab, burqa, niqab, and other religious attire.
- An exception, where a Muslim woman may be requested to remove the traditional attire if the removal is done by another woman and in private if it is necessary for public safety, health, morals, or general welfare.
- Penalties, which shall be imprisonment or a fine, and deportation if the offender is an alien or a foreigner.

Hence, the passage of this measure is sought.

  
**RUDYS CAESAR G. FARIÑAS I**



**Republic of the Philippines  
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First Regular Session**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 7589**

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**AN ACT**

**PROMOTING CULTURAL SENSITIVITY TO FILIPINO MUSLIMS ESPECIALLY  
FOR THE TREATMENT OF MUSLIM WOMEN BY PROHIBITING  
RESTRICTIONS IN THE USE OF TRADITIONAL FORMS OF ATTIRE BY  
MUSLIM WOMEN IN PUBLIC PLACES AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR  
VIOLATION THEREOF**

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

1 SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “Deference to Muslim  
2 Women Traditional Attire Act.”  
3

4 SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to allow the free  
5 exercise of religion and promote equality, regardless of religious affiliation or  
6 belief, to eliminate unnecessary prejudice and discrimination against the believer  
7 and non-believer of any religion. Toward this end, it is necessary to promote  
8 cultural sensitivity to Filipino Muslims especially for the treatment of Muslim  
9 women by prohibiting restriction in the use of traditional form of attire by Muslim  
10 women in public places.  
11

12 SEC. 3. Discriminatory Practices. – It shall be unlawful for any person, natural  
13 or juridical, to commit the following acts:  
14

- 15 a. To deny access or refuse entry to establishments to Muslim women or  
16 prevent their use of facilities, utilities or services because they are wearing  
17 religious symbols or traditional attires like hijab, burqa, niqab and the  
18 like; and  
19  
20 b. To require Muslim women to remove their traditional attires which include  
21 hijab, burqa, niqab and other religious attires within the building or  
22 premises of government offices, schools, financial institutions, business  
23 and commercial establishments and other public places including

1 airports, seaports, land transportation terminals, parks, gardens and  
2 public transport.  
3

4 SEC. 4. Exception. – Muslim women may however be requested to remove the  
5 traditional attire if the removal is done by another woman and in private, if  
6 justified by public safety, health, morals or general welfare.  
7

8 SEC. 5. Penalties. – Any person found guilty of violating Section 3 of this Act  
9 shall suffer the penalty of imprisonment of not less than six (6) months but not  
10 more than two (2) years, or a fine of not less than Twenty thousand pesos  
11 (P20,000.00) but not more than Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00), or both such  
12 fine and imprisonment at the discretion of the court.  
13

14 If the offender is a corporation, partnership or association, agency or other  
15 juridical entity, the penalty shall be imposed on the officers of the corporation,  
16 partnership, association, agency or other juridical entity who caused the  
17 violation.  
18

19 If the offender is an alien or a foreigner, in addition to the penalty herein  
20 prescribed, the offender shall, after service of sentence, be deported without  
21 further proceedings on the part of the Bureau of Immigration.  
22

23 SEC. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The Commission on Human  
24 Rights, in coordination with the National Commission on Muslim Filipinos, shall  
25 promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation  
26 of this Act.  
27

28 SEC. 7. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, letters of instruction, executive  
29 issuances, resolutions, orders or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the  
30 provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.  
31

32 SEC. 8. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
33 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.  
34

35 Approved,