



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Quezon City, Metro Manila

Nineteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9193



Introduced by Honorable Luz V. Mercado

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to declare the date March 31 as official non-working holiday in the whole province of Southern Leyte to commemorate the first religious rites of the Christian faith given the fact that the Philippines is a country whose population is mostly Catholic/Christians.

The passage of this bill will be a confirmation that the State should recognize the significance of March 31 as an important date for its religious belief considering that the first mass of the aforementioned faith was held on March 31, 1521 at Limasawa Island in Southern Leyte.

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

LUZ V. MERCADO



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AN ACT
DECLARING MARCH 31 OF EVERY YEAR A NON-WORKING HOLIDAY
IN THE WHOLE PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN LEYTE, IN COMMEMORATION
OF THE FIRST MASS HELD IN LIMASAWA ISLAND,
PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN LEYTE, TO BE KNOWN AS THE "FIRST MASS DAY"

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

1 **SECTION 1.** March 31 of every year is hereby declared a non-working holiday in the
2 whole province of Southern Leyte in commemoration of the first mass held in
3 Limasawa Island, Province of Southern Leyte, to be known as the "First Mass Day".
4 Upon proclamation of the President, March 31 of every year shall be a non-working
5 holiday in the whole Province of Southern Leyte.

6 **SECTION. 2.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the
7 Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

8 Approved,