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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
2nd Regular Session

House Bill No. **9740**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
E-Filed
RECEIVED
DATE December 12, 2023
TIME 3:24 pm
BY Reli
BILLS AND INDEX SERVICE

Introduced by Representative ERIC GO YAP

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Kankanaey, also known *Kankanay, Kankanai*, and *Kankana-i*, refers to the culture and the people who primarily reside in Benguet and Mountain Province of the Cordillera Administrative Region (CAR). Benguet is among the primary centers of the *Kankanaey* population, wherein the so-called southern *Kankanaey* are found in the Municipalities of Mankayan, Bakun, Kibungan, Buguias, and the upper half of Kapangan in the province. These Southern *Kankanaey* are also called as Benguet *Kankanaey* who should be distinguished from the Benguet *Ibaloy*, the latter, being inhabitants of the lower half and the most urbanized parts of the province, including the vegetable-growing valley of La Trinidad and the melting-pot city of Baguio. *Kankanaey* also has their own language called Mankayan, which dialects include Bakun-Kibungan, Guinzadan, Kapangan, and Mankayan-Buguias. Evidently, *Kankanaey* is among the major ethnolinguistic groups in the province.

Given the dominance of *Kankanaey* in the province's population and as one of the major Indigenous Peoples of Benguet, it becomes of primordial importance to honor their long-standing history, culture, and tradition which shaped the Province of Benguet to what it is today. Such appreciation would only be evident through the establishment of a festival that is representative of the *Kankanaey.* Recently, the *Kankanaey*-concentrated municipalities of Benguet—Kibungan, Kapangan, Bakun, Buguias, and Mankayan—have celebrated their first *Kankanaey* Festival which was held last May 13, 2023. The said festival is now institutionalized as an annual

celebration and recognized by the local government of the province, as a counterpart to the annual celebration of the Ibaloy Festival which is another dominant and equally significant ethnolinguistic group in the province. Hence, in honor of the said celebration, this bill seeks to declare the 13th of May of every year as a special non-working holiday in the *Kankanaey*-concentrated municipalities in the province, including the municipality of Mankayan.

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

HON. ERIC GO YAP

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
2nd Regular Session

House Bill No. **9740**

Introduced by Representative ERIC GO YAP

AN ACT
DECLARING MAY 13 OF EVERY YEAR A SPECIAL NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF MANKAYAN, PROVINCE OF BENGUET IN CELEBRATION OF THE KANKANAEY FESTIVAL

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

SECTION 1. May 13 of every year is hereby declared a special nonworking holiday in the Municipality of Mankayan, Province of Benguet, in celebration of the annual Kankanaey Festival.

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

Approved,