

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1119



Introduced by: **HON. ROMEO S. MOMO, SR.**

20th Congress of the Philippines (2025 – 2028)
District Representative, Surigao del Sur

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Bayabas is a scenic municipality located in the Province of Surigao del Sur, situated in the southern part of the Philippines. This town is known for its rich cultural heritage, and two of its most significant annual celebrations are the "Araw ng Bayabas" and the "Gakit Festival."

The "Araw ng Bayabas" is a special day that commemorates the founding anniversary of the municipality. It is a time for residents to come together and celebrate their shared history, culture, and traditions. The festivities typically include parades, cultural performances, and various community activities. It is a day of pride and unity for the people of Bayabas. The municipality was created on November 20, 1961, by virtue of Executive Order No. 452 of President Carlos P. Garcia.

The "Gakit Festival" is another prominent event in Bayabas, which celebrates the local craft of making "gakit" or woven mats. "Gakit" is a raft made of "balsa" or a flat float made of logs or planks, but usually made of bamboos. This festival highlights the town's artisanal skills, creativity, and craftsmanship. It involves vibrant displays of woven products, competitions, and cultural presentations, showcasing the unique identity of Bayabas.

These celebrations are integral to the cultural identity and heritage of Bayabas. The festivities happen annually on the 18th to 20th of November. They not only promote community unity but also contribute significantly to the local economy through tourism and cultural preservation efforts.

This bill aims to designate November 21 as a special non-working day in the Municipality of Bayabas, which holds significant importance. This declaration would offer residents and employees a well-deserved break following the strenuous preparations and active participation in the Araw ng Bayabas and Gakit Festival. It acknowledges the physical and emotional toll that these festivities can take and provides an opportunity for rest and recuperation.

Thus, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized 'R' followed by a series of loops and a final flourish.

ROMEO S. MOMO SR.
1st District, Surigao del Sur

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**AN ACT DECLARING NOVEMBER 21 OF EVERY YEAR AS A LOCAL SPECIAL
NONWORKING HOLIDAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BAYABAS, SURIGAO
DEL SUR**

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

SECTION 1. The "Araw ng Bayabas" is a special day that commemorates the founding anniversary of the municipality. The "Gakit Festival" is another prominent event in Bayabas, which celebrates the local craft of making "gakit" or woven mats.

SECTION 2. These festivals, held from November 18 to 20, are in honor to the municipality's founding anniversary and to celebrate the local craft tradition of producing "gakit". In line with these festivities, November 21 of every year is hereby declared a special non-working holiday in the Municipality of Bayabas, Province of Surigao Del Sur in order to offer its citizens a well-deserved break following the strenuous preparations and active participation in the Araw ng Bayabas and Gakit Festival.

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.