

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1335



Introduced by Representative Roman T. Romulo

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to amend Republic Act no. 7356, the law that created the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), by expanding and updating the composition of its Board to include key government officials and additional private sector representatives from cultural subcommissions.

This bill mandates the establishment and operation of cultural facilities such as theaters and galleries, as well as regional offices across Luzon, Visayas, and Mindanao, to enhance public access and support the Commission's programs nationwide. It also seeks to elevate the ranks of the Chairperson and key officials to align with equivalent government positions, strengthening the Commission's authority and protocol.

These changes aim to improve coordination, promote Filipino culture more effectively, and expand the Commission's reach across the country.

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

ROMAN T. ROMULO
Lone District, Pasig City

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AN ACT
MODIFYING AND EXPANDING THE COMPOSITION OF THE BOARD OF THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CULTURE AND THE ARTS, MANDATING THE ESTABLISHMENT AND OPERATION OF CULTURAL FACILITIES AND REGIONAL OFFICERS THEREOF, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 9 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7356, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “LAW CREATING THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CULTURE AND THE ARTS”

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

1 **SECTION 1.** Section 9 of Republic Act No. 7356 is hereby amended to read as follows:
2

3 “SEC. 9. *Composition.* - x x x.
4

5 a. the [Undersecretary] SECRETARY of the Department of Education [~~]~~Culture
6 and Sports];

7 B. THE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS;

8 C. THE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR AND
9 LOCAL GOVERNMENT;

10 D. THE SECRETARY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY

11 [b] E. the [Undersecretary] SECRETARY of the Department of Tourism;

12 [c] F. the [Chairman] CHAIRPERSON of the House Committee on Basic
13 Education and Culture;

14 [d] G. the [Chairman] CHAIRPERSON of the Senate Committee on Culture;

15 [e] H. the [President] CHAIRPERSON of the Cultural Center of the Philippines;

16 I. THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION;

17 [f] J. the Executive Director of the National Historical [Institute] COMMISSION
18 OF THE PHILIPPINES;

- 1 [g] K. the Director GENERAL of the National Museum OF THE PHILIPPINES;
2 [h] L. the Director of the National Library OF THE PHILIPPINES;
3 [i] M. the Director of the [Institute of Philippine Languages] COMMISSION ON
4 THE FILIPINO LANGUAGE;
5 [j] N. the Director of the [Records Management and Archives Office] NATIONAL
6 ARCHIVES OF THE PHILIPPINES;
7 O. THE DIRECTOR GENERAL OF THE TECHNICAL EDUCATION AND
8 SKILLS DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY;
9 [k. the Executive Director of the Commission;]
10 [l. the Head of the Subcommission on Cultural Communities and Traditional
11 Arts;]
12 [m] -. The [three (3)] FOUR (4) representatives from the private sector who shall
13 be the elected heads of the [three (3)] FOUR (4) Subcommissions, namely:
14 the Subcommission on Cultural Heritage, the Subcommission on the Arts,
15 and the Subcommission on Cultural Dissemination, AND THE
16 SUBCOMMISSION ON CULTURAL COMMUNITIES AND TRADITIONAL
17 ARTS. [They shall be elected by the chairpersons of the national committees
18 under their respective Subcommissions.]
19

20 THE EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS MAY DESIGNATE A REPRESENTATIVE
21 WHO SHALL NOT BE LOWER THAN AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OR A
22 DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR OR A DEPUTY DIRECTOR GENERAL,
23 OR THEIR EQUIVALENT. SUCH REPRESENTATIVES SHALL BE VESTED
24 WITH THE AUTHORITY TO ACT IN THE NAME OF THEIR PRINCIPAL.
25

26 **SEC. 2.** - Insert a new Section 14-A which shall read:
27

28 "SEC. 14-A. RANK OF THE CHAIRPERSON, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, AND
29 THE DEPUTY EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR. - THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE
30 COMMISSION, ELECTED FROM AMONG THE MEMBERS OF THE
31 COMMISSION TO SERVE WITHOUT COMPENSATION, AS PROVIDED BY
32 REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7356, SHALL HAVE THE RANK OF A SECRETARY.
33 THE CHAIRPERSON MAY, AT THE DISCRETION OF THE PRESIDENT OF
34 THE PHILIPPINES AND PURSUANT TO AN ADMINISTRATIVE ORDER
35 ISSUED FOR THE PURPOSE, BE DESIGNATED AS A MEMBER OF THE
36 CABINET.
37

38 THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR SHALL HAVE A RANK OF
39 UNDERSECRETARY WHILE THE TWO (2) DEPUTY EXECUTIVE
40 DIRECTORS SHALL HAVE THE RANKS OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY.
41

42 FOR PURPOSES OF PROTOCOL, THE COMMISSIONERS OF THE
43 COMMISSION SHALL BE ASSIGNED THE RANK OF AN
44 UNDERSECRETARY WHEN DESIGNATED TO REPRESENT THE
45 COMMISSION OFFICIALLY ABROAD."
46

47 **SEC. 3.** - Section 16 of Republic Act No. 7356 is hereby amended to read as
48 follows:
49

1 SEC. 16. [*Local, Provincial or Regional Councils.* - The Commission may
2 establish or coordinate with local, provincial or regional government or non-
3 government councils/groups to promote, develop and implement programs and
4 plans of the Commission.] CULTURAL FACILITIES; REGIONAL, SATELLITE,
5 AND FIELD OFFICES. - TO SUPPORT ITS GENERAL OPERATIONS,
6 REGULATORY FUNCTIONS, AND PROGRAMS, ACTIVITIES AND
7 PROJECTS, AS WELL AS ENHANCE PUBLIC ACCESS TO ITS SERVICES,
8 THE NATIONAL COMMISSION FOR CULTURE AND THE ARTS SHALL
9 ESTABLISH AND OPERATE CULTURAL FACILITIES WHICH SHALL
10 INCLUDE CULTURAL CENTERS, THEATERS, GALLERIES, AND OTHER
11 PHYSICAL FACILITIES THAT ALLOW THE PUBLIC ACCESS TO CULTURE
12 AND THE ARTS, AS WELL AS REGIONAL OFFICES THROUGHOUT THE
13 ADMINISTRATIVE REGIONS OF THE PHILIPPINES.

14
15 THE ORGANIZATION AND STAFFING OF EACH CULTURAL FACILITY
16 SHALL BE APPROPRIATE TO ITS PHYSICAL SIZE AND SCOPE OF
17 OPERATIONS. THE METROPOLITAN THEATER IN THE CITY OF MANILA
18 OWNED AND OPERATED BY THE COMMISSION, SHALL BE HEADED BY
19 A THEATER DIRECTOR. LIKEWISE, EACH REGIONAL OFFICE SHALL BE
20 HEADED BY A REGIONAL DIRECTOR.

21
22 AT LEAST TWO (2) REGIONAL OFFICES IN LUZON, ONE (1) REGIONAL
23 OFFICE IN VISAYAS, AND TWO (2) REGIONAL OFFICES IN MINDANAO
24 SHALL BE ESTABLISHED, ORGANIZED, AND STAFFED WITHIN A PERIOD
25 OF TWO (2) YEARS FROM THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT.

26
27 SATELLITE OFFICES AND FIELD OFFICES MAY LIKEWISE BE
28 ESTABLISHED BY THE NCCA, PARTICULARLY IN AREAS OF
29 EXCEPTIONAL CULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE AND, IN COORDINATION WITH
30 THE DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND MANAGEMENT, ORGANIZED AND
31 STAFFED AS APPROPRIATE.”

32
33 **SEC. 4. Appropriations.** - The amount necessary for the immediate
34 implementation of this Act shall be taken from the current year’s appropriation of the
35 NCCA (Proper). Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continued implementation
36 of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

37
38 **SEC. 5. Separability Clause.** – If for any reason a provision or section of this
39 Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, other sections or provisions not affected
40 thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

41
42 **SEC. 6. Repealing Clause.** – Section 9 and other pertinent sections of
43 Republic Act No. 7356, otherwise known as the “Law Creating the National
44 Commission for Culture and the Arts”, and its Implementing Rules and Regulations,
45 are hereby amended accordingly. All other laws, decrees, executive orders,
46 proclamations, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent
47 with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

1 **SEC. 7. Effectivity.** – Notwithstanding the non-issuance of the IRR, this Act
2 shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a
3 newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,