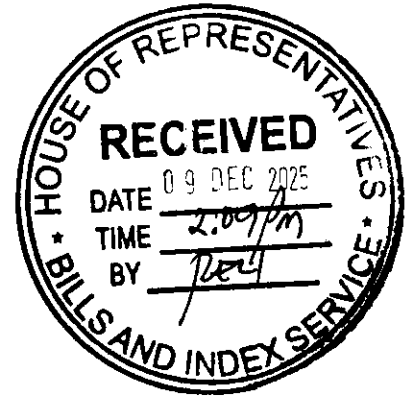




Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**20<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS**  
1st Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 6710**



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Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE JENNIFER A. LAGBAS**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The Constitution proves that the State shall ensure the autonomy of local government units (LGUs) to enable them to become self-reliant communities and effective partners in achieving national development. Under the law, the authority to declare local holidays is primarily vested in the President or in Congress through legislation. As a result, LGUs must seek national *imprimatur* before officially commemorating historically or culturally significant dates within their localities. This centralized process often delays and limits the ability of LGUs to recognize and celebrate important local events that contribute to their community's sense of history and identity.

This bill seeks to institutionalize the authority of local Sanggunian to declare special working or non-working holidays within their jurisdiction. This measure empowers the local legislative bodies to formally recognize events and milestones of historical, cultural, or civic significance, subject to guidelines and consultations with the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) and Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE). Furthermore, the proposed measure is intended to unclog the legislative mill of bills where the subject matter can be appropriately delegated to the local Sanggunian to legislate.

By granting this authority to the LGUs, the measure upholds the spirit of local autonomy envisioned in the Constitution, encourages active participation in cultural preservation, and ensures that every province, city, municipality, and barangay can celebrate and honor their milestones with pride and self-determination.

In view of the above, passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



**HON. JENNIFER A. LAGBAS**  
Representative  
First District, Misamis Oriental



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**AN ACT**  
**GRANTING THE SANGGUNIAN PANLALAWIGAN, SANGGUNIAN PANLUNGSOD,**  
**OR SANGGUNIAN BAYAN, TO DECLARE SPECIAL WORKING OR**  
**NON-WORKING HOLIDAYS IN THEIR RESPECTIVE LOCALITIES TO**  
**COMMEMORATE SIGNIFICANT HISTORIC EVENTS, PROVIDING GUIDELINES**  
**THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

**SECTION 1. *Title.*** - This Act shall be known as the “Local Holidays Act of 2025.”

**SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** - It is hereby declared the policy of the State that the territorial and political subdivisions shall enjoy genuine, true, and meaningful autonomy to enable them to attain their fullest development as self-reliant communities and as effective partners in the attainment of national goals. Towards this end, the local government units herein provided shall exercise the power to ensure and support the preservation and enrichment of their local culture and history. Thus, the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, Sangguniang Panlungsod, or Sangguniang Bayan shall be authorized to declare special working or non-working holidays to commemorate local historical events and memorable dates in the creation and existence of their localities.

**SEC. 3. *Authority to Declare Special Working and Non-Working Holidays.*** - The Sangguniang Panlalawigan, Sangguniang Panlungsod, or Sangguniang Bayan is hereby granted the authority to declare, by ordinance, special working or non-working holidays to commemorate significant historic events in their respective locality, subject to the guidelines provided under this Act and upon prior consultation with the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP), as applicable, and the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE).

**SEC. 4. *Guidelines for the Declaration of Special Non-Working Holidays.*** - The Sanggunian shall observe the following guidelines when declaring holidays within their respective locality:

- a) There must be prior certification by the NHI as to the significance of the occasion;
- b) There must be prior consultation with the DOLE as to the economic viability of the holiday;
- c) The Sangguniang Panlalawigan shall have the authority to declare one special non-working holiday covering the entire province or more than one of its component cities or municipalities. In no case shall the Sangguniang Panlalawigan declare more than one special non-working holiday in any of its component cities or municipalities;
- d) The Sangguniang Panlungsod or Sangguniang Bayan in the city or municipality, as the case may be, shall have the authority to declare one special non-working holiday in the city or municipality concerned or in more than one of its component barangays. In no case shall the Sanggunian declare more than one special non-working holiday in any of its component barangays.
- e) Existing local special non-working holidays will continue to be observed until otherwise changed or discontinued by the local Sanggunian concerned;
- f) Local Sanggunian with at least one special non-working holiday already shall no longer have the authority to declare an additional special non-working day, except to exercise the prerogative specified in Sec. 4 (e).

**SEC. 5. *Authority to Declare Special Working Holidays.*** - The local Sanggunian including the Sangguniang Barangay may declare as many special working holidays as they deem appropriate.

**SEC. 6. *Authority of Congress to Declare Special Working and Non-Working Holidays.*** - Congress shall continue to declare special working and non-working holidays.

**SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - All implementing rules and regulations necessary to enforce this Act must be issued and shall take effect not later than sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act.

**SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.*** - Any portion of or provision of this Act that may be declared unconstitutional or invalid shall not have the effect of nullifying the other portions or provisions hereof as long as such remaining portion or provision can still subsist and be given effect in its entirety.

**SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**SEC. 10. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or any two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

*Approved,*