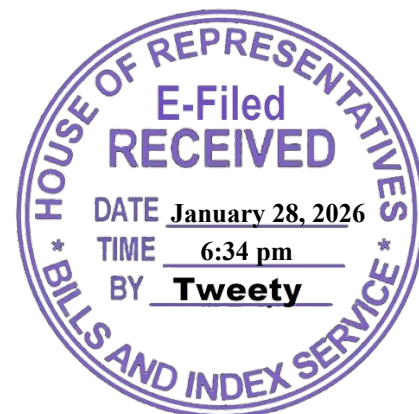


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **7478**



Introduced by LINABELLE RUTH R. VILLARICA

**AN ACT ENSURING GENDER-RESPONSIVENESS IN NATIONALITY LAWS,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 473,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “THE REVISED NATURALIZATION LAW”, AND
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9139, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “THE ADMINISTRATIVE
NATURALIZATION LAW”**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The 1987 Constitution enshrines the role of women in nation-building and the responsibility of the State to ensure the fundamental equality of women and men before the law (Article II, Section 14).

Republic Act No. 9710, otherwise known as the *Magna Carta of Women*, and the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (UN CEDAW), of which the Philippines is a State Party, underscores the equal rights of men and women to acquire, change, or retain their nationality (Section 19; Article 9, respectively). Further, both emphasize that neither marriage to an alien nor change of nationality by the husband during marriage shall automatically change the nationality of the wife, render her stateless, or force upon her the nationality of the husband (Section 19(g); Article 9).

Despite these frameworks, the Philippines has been identified as one of fifty (50) States that continue to have distinctions in terms of conferral and acquisition/retainment of citizenship¹. These are embodied in the country’s naturalization laws which are governed by Commonwealth Act No. 473, otherwise known as the *Revised Naturalization Law*, and Republic Act 9139 No. or the *Administrative Naturalization Law*.

Article 15 of the Revised Naturalization Law denies a married woman the right to choose her nationality following the naturalization of her husband. Furthermore, Section 12 of the Administrative Naturalization Law prevents married women that have been granted

¹ Reference: <https://equalnationalityrights.org/the-issue/the-problem>

Philippine citizenship through naturalization, from conferring her nationality to her husband. Not only do these provisions violate the principles and commitments of the Philippines under international² and national laws, but it also inhibits inclusive sustainable development as citizenship serves as the gateway to access other rights and services³.

Hence, this bill seeks to (1) harmonize existing laws⁴, (2) amend the current Administrative and Judicial Naturalization Laws, especially, the automatic conferment of derivative naturalization in Section 15 of Commonwealth Act No. 473, and the differential effect of naturalization on non-national spouses as indicated in Sections 11, 12, and 13 of Republic Act No. 9139, and (3) ensure safeguards to prevent statelessness in line with the General Recommendation No. 32 of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women⁵ and the recently ratified 1961 Convention on the Reduction of Statelessness.

This proposed measure is also in line with efforts to remove gender discrimination in nationality laws under Action Point 3 of the National Action Plan to End Statelessness by 2024. It contributes to the fulfillment of the Philippines' pledge to enhance its "policy, legal, and operational framework" during the 2011 Ministerial Inter-Governmental Event on Refugees and Stateless Persons⁶ and 2019 High-Level Segment on Statelessness⁷.

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



REP. LINABELLE RUTH R. VILLARICA

Fourth District, Bulacan

² The right to nationality is also enshrined in several international and regional human rights instruments. The list of which could be found in pages 26-28 of [2020 Guidelines on Statelessness on Loss and Deprivation of Nationality under Articles 5-9 of the 1961 Convention](#).

³ Reference: <https://equalnationalityrights.org/the-issue/the-problem>

⁴ Harmonization of naturalization laws with the Republic Act 9710 and the UN CEDAW would also contribute to the fulfillment of the recommendation of the UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination of Women in its [Concluding Observations on the Combined 7th and 8th Reports of the Philippines](#).

⁵ Specifically, paragraph 63 (b, e, i) of the [General Recommendation No. 32 of the Gender-related Dimensions of Refugee Status, Asylum, Nationality and Statelessness of Women](#).

⁶ Information on the 2011 Ministerial Inter-Governmental Event on Refugees and Stateless Persons as well as the pledges manifested by the Philippines can be accessed through: <https://www.unhcr.org/4ff55a319.pdf>

⁷ Pledges manifested by the Philippines during the 2019 High-Level Segment on Statelessness can be accessed through: <https://www.unhcr.org/ibelong/results-of-the-high-level-segment-on-statelessness/>

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**AN ACT ENSURING GENDER-RESPONSIVENESS IN NATIONALITY LAWS,
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REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9139, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “THE ADMINISTRATIVE
NATURALIZATION LAW”**

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

Section 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “**Gender Equality / Gender Responsive Amendments to Nationality Laws Act of 2026**”

Section 2. Section 2 of Commonwealth Act No. 473 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 2. Qualifications. – Subject to Section 4 of this Act, any person having the following qualifications may become a citizen of the Philippines by naturalization:

First. [He] **THEY** must be not less than **EIGHTEEN YEARS** [twenty-one years] of age on the day of the hearing of the petition;

Second. [He] **THEY** must have resided in the Philippines for a continuous period of not less than [ten] **FIVE** years;

Third. [He] **THEY** must be of good moral character and believes in the principles underlying the Philippine Constitution, and must have conducted [himself] **THEMSELVES** in a proper and irreproachable manner during the entire period of [his] **THEIR** residence in the Philippines in [his] **THEIR** relation with the constituted government as well as with the community in which [he is] **THEY ARE** living.

Fourth. [He] **THEY** [must own real estate in the Philippines worth not less than five thousand pesos, Philippine currency, or must have some known lucrative trade, profession, or lawful occupation] **MUST HAVE SOME KNOWN AND LAWFUL TRADE, BUSINESS, PROFESSION, OR LAWFUL OCCUPATION, FROM WHICH HE/SHE DERIVES SUFFICIENT INCOME TO SUPPORT THEMSELVES AND HIS/HER FAMILY;**

Fifth. [He] **THEY** must be able to [speak and write] **COMMUNICATE IN** [English or Spanish] **FILIPINO, ANY LOCAL DIALECT OF THE PHILIPPINES,** [and any one of the principal Philippine languages] **OR IN THE CASE OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, FILIPINO SIGN LANGUAGE; ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURES SHALL BE UNDERTAKEN TO ASSESS THE CONDITION AND ABILITY/IES OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES PURSUANT TO REPUBLIC ACT 11106,** and

Sixth. [He] **THEY** must have enrolled [his] **THEIR** minor children of school age, in any of the public schools or private schools recognized by the **PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT** [Office of Private Education], where Philippine history, government and civics are taught or prescribed as part of the school curriculum, during the entire period of the residence in the Philippines required of [him] **THEM** prior to the hearing of [his] **THEIR** petition for naturalization as a Philippine citizen.

Section 3. Section 3 of Commonwealth Act No. 473 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 3. *Special qualifications.* The ten years of continuous residence required under the second condition of the last preceding section shall be [understood as] reduced to [five] **THREE** years for any petitioner having any of the following qualifications:

[1. Having honorably held office under the Government of the Philippines or under that of any of the provinces, cities, municipalities, or political subdivisions thereof;]

[2] **1.** Having established a new industry or introduced a useful invention in the Philippines;

[3] **2.** Being married to a Filipino **CITIZEN** [woman];

[4] **3.** Having been engaged as a teacher in the Philippines in a public or recognized private school not established for the exclusive instruction of children of persons of a particular nationality or race, in any of the branches of education or industry for a period of not less than two years;

x x x

[5] **4.** Having been born in the Philippines; **OR**

5. HAVING ENGAGED IN CONSISTENT CHARITABLE, SOCIO-CIVIC OR PHILANTHROPIC WORK IN THE PHILIPPINES DURING THE ENTIRE PERIOD OF RESIDENCE REQUIRED AND RECOGNIZED BY THE LOCAL COMMUNITY BENEFITTED BY SUCH ACTIVITY.

Section 4. Paragraphs e, g, and h of Section 4 of Commonwealth Act No. 473 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 4. *Who are disqualified.* - The following cannot be naturalized as Philippine citizens:

X X X

e. Persons suffering from mental [alienation or incurable contagious diseases;] **HEALTH CONDITION WITH ACTIVE SYMPTOMS RESULTING TEMPORARY IMPAIRMENT AND DECISION-MAKING CAPACITY OR WITH A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY OF INTERNATIONAL CONCERN AT THE TIME OF THE PETITION**^{8 & 9};

[g. Citizens or subjects of nations with whom [the United States and] the Philippines **IS** [are] at war, during the period of such war;]

h. Citizens or subjects of a foreign country [other than the United States] whose laws do not grant Filipinos the right to become naturalized citizens or subjects thereof.

Section 5. Section 5 of Commonwealth Act No. 473 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 5. *Declaration of intention.* – One year prior to the filing of [his] **THEIR** petition for admission to Philippine citizenship, the applicant for Philippine citizenship shall file with the **OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR GENERAL** [Bureau of Justice] a declaration under oath that it is *bona fide* [his] **THEIR** intention to become a citizen of the Philippines. Such declaration shall set forth name, age, occupation, personal description, place of birth, last foreign residence and allegiance, the date of arrival, the name of the vessel or aircraft, if any, in which [he] **THEY** came to the Philippines, and the place of residence in the Philippines at the time of making the declaration. No declaration shall be valid until lawful entry for permanent residence has been established and a certificate showing the date, place, and manner of [his] **THEIR** arrival has been issued. The declarant must also state that [he has] **THEY HAVE** enrolled [his] **THEIR** minor children, if any, in any of the public schools or private schools recognized by the **PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT** [Office of Private Education], where Philippine history, government, and civics are taught or prescribed as part of the school curriculum, during the entire period of the residence in the Philippines required

⁸ Reference: [Republic Act 11332 \(Mandatory Reporting of Notifiable Diseases and Health Events of Public Concern Act\)](#)

⁹ Reference: Section 4e of [Republic Act 9139 \(The Administrative Naturalization Law of 2000\)](#) and Section 4(5) of [Commonwealth Act 473](#)

of [him] **THEM** prior to the hearing of [his] **THEIR** petition for naturalization as Philippine citizen. Each declarant must furnish two photographs of [himself] **THEMSELVES**.

Section 6. Section 6 of Commonwealth Act No. 473 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 6. *Persons exempt from requirement to make a declaration of intention.* – x x x

To such requirements shall be added that which establishes that the applicant has given primary and secondary education to all [his] **THEIR** children in the public schools or in private schools recognized by the **PHILIPPINE** Government and not limited to any race or nationality. The same shall be understood applicable with respect to the [widow] **SPOUSE** and minor children of an alien who has declared [his] **THEIR** intention to become a citizen of the Philippines, and dies before [he is] **THEY ARE** actually naturalized.

Section 7. Section 7 of Commonwealth Act No. 473 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 7. *Petition for citizenship.* – Any person desiring to acquire Philippine citizenship shall file with the competent court, a petition in triplicate, accompanied by two photographs of the petitioner, setting forth [his] **THEIR** name and surname; [his] **THEIR** present and former places of residence; [his] **THEIR** occupation; the place and date of [his] **THEIR** birth; whether single or married and the [father] **PARENT** of children, the name, age, birthplace and residence of the [wife] **SPOUSE** and of each of the children; the approximate date of [his] **THEIR** arrival in the Philippines, the name of the port of debarkation, and, if [he] **THEY** remember it, the name of the ship on which [he] **THEY** came; a declaration that [he has] **THEY HAVE** the qualifications required by this Act, specifying the same, and that [he is] **THEY ARE** not disqualified for naturalization under the provisions of this Act; that [he has] **THEY HAVE** complied with the requirements of section five of this Act; and that [he] **THEY** will reside continuously in the Philippines from the date of the filing of the petition up to the time of [his] **THEIR** admission to Philippine citizenship. The petition must be signed by the applicant in [his] **THEIR** own handwriting and be supported by the affidavit of at least two credible persons, stating that they are citizens of the Philippines and personally know the petitioner to be a resident of the Philippines for the period of time required by this Act and a person of good repute and morally irreproachable, and that said petitioner has in their opinion all the qualifications necessary to become a citizen of the Philippines and is not in any way disqualified under the provisions of this Act.

x x x

Section 8. Section 9 of Commonwealth Act No. 473 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 9. *Notification and appearance.*—Immediately upon the filing of a petition, it shall be the duty of the clerk of the court to publish the same at petitioner's expense, once a week for three consecutive weeks, in the Official Gazette, and in one of the newspapers of general circulation in the province where the petitioner resides, and to have copies of said petition and a general notice of the hearing posted in a public and conspicuous place in [his] **THEIR** office or in the building where said office is located, setting forth in such notice the name, birthplace and residence of the petitioner, the date and place of his arrival in the Philippines, the names of the witnesses whom the petitioner proposes to introduce in support of [his] **THEIR** petition, and the date of the hearing of the petition, which hearing shall not be held within ninety days from the date of the last publication of the notice.

X X X

Section 9. Section 10 of Commonwealth Act No. 473 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 10. *Hearing of the petition.*—No petition shall be heard within the thirty days preceding any election. The hearing shall be public, and the Solicitor-General, either himself or through his delegate or the provincial fiscal concerned, shall appear on behalf of the [Commonwealth] **REPUBLIC** of the Philippines at all the proceedings and at the hearing. If, after the hearing, the court believes, in view of the evidence taken, that the petitioner has all the qualifications required by, and none of the disqualifications specified in this Act and has complied with all requisites herein established, it shall **GRANT THE PETITION AND** order the **ISSUANCE AND REGISTRATION OF THE NATURALIZATION CERTIFICATE IN THE PROPER CIVIL REGISTRY** [proper naturalization certificate to be issued and the registration of the said naturalization certificate in the proper civil registry as required in section ten of Act Numbered Three thousand seven hundred and fifty-three.]

Section 10. Section 12 of Commonwealth Act No. 473 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 12. *Issuance of the Certificate of Naturalization.*—x x x The file number of the petition, the number of the naturalization certificate, the signature of the person naturalized affixed in the presence of the clerk of the court, the personal circumstances of the person naturalized, the dates on which [his] **THEIR** declaration of intention and petition were filed, the date of the decision granting the petition, and the name of the judge who rendered the decision.

X X X

Section 11. Paragraph 1 of Section 15 of Commonwealth Act No. 473 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 15. *Effect of the naturalization on THE ALIEN SPOUSE* [wife and children.]—Any **PERSON** [woman] who is now or may hereafter be married to a citizen of the Philippines, [and who might herself be lawfully naturalized] may be

deemed a citizen of the Philippines **PROVIDED THAT [HE] THEY CONSENT TO THE EFFECT OF A DERIVATIVE CITIZENSHIP**; and possesses the qualifications and none of the disqualifications set forth by law. **PROVIDED FURTHER, THAT IF THE SPOUSE IS STATELESS, CONFERRAL OF DERIVATIVE CITIZENSHIP BY THE OTHER SPOUSE THROUGH NATURALIZATION SHALL BE DEEMED AUTOMATIC. PROVIDED FURTHERMORE, THAT IN CASE OF TERMINATION OF SUCH MARRIAGE BASED ON ANY GROUND, THE DERIVED CITIZENSHIP SHALL BE RETAINED BY THE OTHER SPOUSE IF IT WILL OTHERWISE RESULT TO STATELESSNESS.**

Section 12. Paragraphs 2 to 4 of Section 15 of Commonwealth Act No. 473 is hereby amended to read as follows:

SECTION 15. EFFECT OF NATURALIZATION ON CHILDREN. - Minor children of persons naturalized under this law who have been born in the Philippines shall be considered citizens thereof.

A foreign-born minor child, if dwelling in the Philippines at the time of the naturalization of the parent, shall automatically become a Philippine citizen, and a foreign-born minor child, who is not in the Philippines at the time the parent is naturalized, shall be deemed a Philippine citizen only during [his] **THEIR** minority, unless [he] **THEY** begin[s] to reside permanently in the Philippines when still a minor, in which case, [he] **THEY** will continue to be a Philippine citizen even after becoming of age. **PROVIDED THAT IF A FOREIGN-BORN CHILD FAILS TO PERMANENTLY RESIDE IN THE PHILIPPINES AT THE TIME [HIS] THEIR PARENT IS NATURALIZED, [HIS] THEIR DERIVED PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP SHALL BE DEEMED RETAINED WHILE THE CHILD IS A MINOR IF REVOCATION OF PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP WILL RESULT TO STATELESSNESS.**

A child born outside of the Philippines after the naturalization of [his] **THEIR** parent, shall be considered a Philippine citizen, unless within [one] **SEVEN** yearS after reaching the age of majority, he fails to register himself as a Philippine citizen at the Philippine Embassy of the country where he resides, and to take the necessary oath of allegiance. **PROVIDED, THAT FAILURE TO REGISTER WILL NOT OPERATE TO ALLOW LOSS OF PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP IF IT WILL OTHERWISE RENDER THE INDIVIDUAL STATELESS.**

Section 13. Section 16 of Commonwealth Act No. 473 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 16. *Right of [widow] **SURVIVING SPOUSE** and children of petitioner[s] who [have] **HAS** died.* – In case a petitioner should die before the final decision has been rendered, [his] **THEIR** [widow] **SURVIVING SPOUSE** and children may continue the proceedings. The decision rendered in the case shall, so far as the [widow] **SURVIVING SPOUSE** and minor children are concerned, produce the same legal effect as if it had been rendered during the life of the petitioner.

Section 14. Section 17 of Commonwealth Act No. 473 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 17. *Renunciation of Title or Orders of Nobility.* - In case the alien applying to be admitted to citizenship has borne any hereditary title, or has been of any of the orders of nobility in the Kingdom or state from which [he] **THEY** came, he shall, in addition to the above requisites, make an express renunciation of [his] **THEIR** title or order of nobility in the court to which [his] **THEIR** application is made, and [his] **THEIR** renunciation shall be recorded in the court, unless with the express consent of the **PHILIPPINE CONGRESS** [National Assembly].

Section 15. Section 18 of Commonwealth Act No. 473 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 18. *Cancellation of Naturalization Certificate Issued.* - Upon motion made in the proper proceedings by the Solicitor-General or [his] **THEIR** representative, or by the proper provincial fiscal, the competent judge may cancel the naturalization certificate issued and its registration in the Civil Register:

1. If it is shown that said naturalization certificate was obtained fraudulently or illegally.
2. If the [person] naturalized **PERSON OR [HIS] THEIR SPOUSE OR ANY OF [HIS] THEIR MINOR CHILDREN WHO ACQUIRE FILIPINO CITIZENSHIP BY VIRTUE OF [HIS] THEIR NATURALIZATION** shall, within [the five years] **SEVEN (7) CONSECUTIVE YEARS** next following the [issuance of said naturalization certificate] **GRANT OF PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP**, [return to his native country or to some foreign country] and establish [his] permanent residence **IN A FOREIGN COUNTRY** [there]: Provided, **THAT THE LOSS OF CITIZENSHIP FOR THE NATURALIZED PERSON SHALL BE CONDITIONAL UPON THE POSSESSION OR ACQUISITION OF ANOTHER CITIZENSHIP. PROVIDED FURTHER** That the fact of the person naturalized remaining for more than one **(1)** year in [his] **THEIR** native country or the country of his former nationality, or two **(2)** years in any other foreign country, shall be considered as *prima facie* evidence of [his] **THEIR** intention of taking up [his] **THEIR** permanent residence in the same;

X X X

4. If it is shown that the minor children of the person naturalized failed to graduate from a public or private high schools recognized by the **PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT** [Office of Private Education of the Philippines], where Philippine history, government and civics are taught as part of the school curriculum, through the fault of their parents either by neglecting to support them or by transferring them to another school or schools. A certified copy of the decree cancelling the naturalization certificate shall be forwarded by the clerk of the Court to the Department of the Interior **AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT** and the [Bureau] **DEPARTMENT** of Justice.

5. If it is shown that the naturalized citizen has allowed [himself] **THEMSELVES** to be used as a dummy requiring Philippine citizenship as a requisite for the exercise, use or enjoyment of a right, franchise or privilege.

Section 16. Paragraphs d, e, and f of Section 3 of Republic 9139 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 3. *Qualifications.* - Subject to the provisions of the succeeding section, any person desiring to avail of the benefits of this Act must meet the following qualifications:

X X X

d. The applicant must have received his/her primary and secondary education in any public school or private educational institution dully recognized by the **PHILIPPINE GOVERNMENT** [Department of Education, Culture and Sports,] where Philippine history, government and civics are taught and prescribed as part of the school curriculum and where enrollment is not limited to any race or nationality: *Provided*, That should he/she have minor children of school age, he/she must have enrolled them in similar schools;

e. The applicant must have a known trade, business, profession or lawful occupation, from which he/she derives income sufficient [for his/her] **TO** support [and if he/she is married and/or has dependents, also that of] **THEMSELVES AND** his/her family: *Provided, however*, That this shall not apply to applicants who are college degree holders but are unable to practice their profession because they are disqualified to do so by reason of their citizenship;

f. The applicant must be able to [read, write and speak] **COMMUNICATE IN** Filipino or any of the dialects of the Philippines; **OR IN THE CASE OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES, FILIPINO SIGN LANGUAGE; ALTERNATIVE PROCEDURES SHALL BE UNDERTAKEN TO ASSESS THE CONDITION AND ABILITY/IES OF PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES PURSUANT TO REPUBLIC ACT 11106**, and

X X X

Section 17. Paragraph e of Section 4 of Republic 9139 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 4. *Who are disqualified.* - The following cannot be naturalized as Philippine citizens:

X X X

e. Persons suffering from mental [alienation or incurable contagious diseases;] **ILLNESS¹⁰ WITH ACTIVE SYMPTOMS RESULTING TEMPORARY IMPAIRMENT AND DECISION-MAKING CAPACITY OR WITH A PUBLIC HEALTH EMERGENCY OF INTERNATIONAL CONCERN AT THE TIME OF THE PETITION^{11 & 12;}**

Section 18. Section 11 of Republic Act 9139 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 11. *Status of [Alien Wife] SPOUSE and Minor Children.* - After the approval of the petition for administrative naturalization in cancellation of applicant's alien certificate of registration, applicant's alien [lawful wife] **SPOUSE** and minor children may file a petition for cancellation of their alien certificates of registration with the Committee subject to the payment of the filing fee of Twenty thousand pesos (P20,000.00) and naturalization fee of Forty thousand pesos (P40,000.00) payable as follows: Twenty thousand pesos (P20,000.00) upon the approval of the petition and Twenty thousand pesos (P20,000.00) upon the taking of the oath of allegiance to the Republic of the Philippines.

Section 19. Section 12 of Republic Act 9139 is hereby deleted.

[**Section 12.** *Status of Alien Husband and Minor Children.* - If the applicant is a married woman, the approval of her petition for administrative naturalization will not benefit her alien husband but her minor children may file a petition for cancellation of their alien certificates of registration with the BI subject to the requirements of existing laws.]

Section 20. Section 13 of Republic Act 9139 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 13. *Cancellation of the Certificate of Naturalization.* - The Special Committee may cancel certificates of naturalization issued under this Act in the following cases:

(a) x x x

¹⁰ Revised from “mental alienation” (Republic Act 9139) to “mental illness” in line with Republic Act 11036. Proposed revision stems from the input of Department of Health in a separate draft proposed facilitated naturalization bill for refugees and stateless persons. According to the Department of Health, during the September 2019 inter-agency validation meeting on the aforementioned draft proposed bill, mental alienation is a form of discrimination which is contrary to the language and spirit of the newly enacted law. If the person is treated, it would not fall under this and can apply for naturalization. On incurable diseases, applying the provision of Republic Act 11332, if it is a public health emergency of international concern (i.e. polio, or those requiring quarantine procedures) then it may be considered for disqualification.

References:

- a. [Republic Act 11036 \(Mental Health Act\)](#) and its [Implementing Rules and Regulations](#)
- b. [Republic Act 11332 \(Mandatory Reporting of Notifiable Diseases and Health Events of Public Concern Act\)](#)
- c. [Republic Act 11166 \(Philippine HIV and AIDS Policy Act\)](#)
- d. An Outline on Philippine Immigration and Citizenship Laws (1999): “Mental alienation may include feeble-mindedness, psychosis, and multiple psychological personalities. In the case of incurable contagious diseases, both the incurability and contagious nature of the disease must concur to disqualify the applicant from naturalization.” (pages 378-379)

¹¹ Reference: [Republic Act 11332 \(Mandatory Reporting of Notifiable Diseases and Health Events of Public Concern Act\)](#)

¹² Reference: Section 4e of [Republic Act 9139 \(The Administrative Naturalization Law of 2000\)](#) and Section 4(5) of [Commonwealth Act 473](#)

- (b) If the naturalized person or [his] **THEIR SPOUSE** [wife], or any of [his] **THEIR** minor children who acquire Filipino citizenship by virtue of [his] **THEIR** naturalization shall, within **SEVEN (7) CONSECUTIVE YEARS** [five (5) years next] following the grant of Philippine citizenship, establish permanent residence in a foreign country, that individual's certificate of naturalization or acquired citizenship shall be cancelled or revoked: Provided, **THAT THE LOSS OF CITIZENSHIP FOR THE NATURALIZED PERSON OR [HIS] THEIR SPOUSE OR ANY OF [HIS] THEIR MINOR CHILDREN SHALL BE CONDITIONAL UPON THE POSSESSION OR ACQUISITION OF ANOTHER CITIZENSHIP. PROVIDED FURTHER** That the fact of such person's remaining for more than one (1) year in his country of origin, or two (2) years in any foreign country, shall be considered prima facie evidence of intent to permanently reside therein;
- (c) If the naturalized person **OR** [his] **THEIR SPOUSE** [wife,] [or child] with acquired citizenship allows [himself or herself] **THEMSELVES** to be used as a dummy in violation of any constitutional or legal provision requiring Philippine citizenship as a condition for the exercise, use or enjoyment of a right, franchise or privilege, the certificate of naturalization or acquired citizenship shall be cancelled or revoked; and
- (d) If the naturalized person **OR** [his] **THEIR SPOUSE** [wife], [or child] with acquired citizenship commits any act inimical to national security, the certificate of naturalization or acquired citizenship shall be cancelled or revoked.

X X X

Section 21. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is found unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected by such declaration shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 22. *Repealing Clause* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, presidential issuances, and other administrative rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

Section 23. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,