

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7807



Introduced by: **REP. SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.**

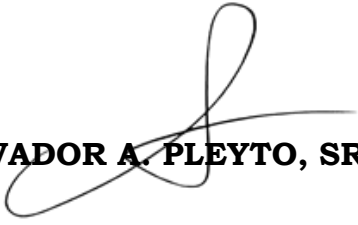
EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to institutionalize a day of great historical and spiritual significance for the people of Santa Maria, Bulacan. The "Return of the Virgin" commemorates the recovery of the town's patroness, an event that remains a cornerstone of local identity and communal unity.

By declaring this a special non-working holiday, we provide the citizens of Santa Maria the opportunity to fully participate in the commemorative rites, foster local tourism, and preserve the rich cultural heritage of the province.

The provision regarding February 2 ensures that this local celebration does not overlap with the existing Feast of the Candles, allowing for an orderly and respectful observance of both traditions.

In view of the cultural importance of this event to the municipality of Santa Maria, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.

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Introduced by: **REP. SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.**

**AN ACT DECLARING THE FIRST THURSDAY OF FEBRUARY OF EVERY
YEAR, UNLESS IT FALLS ON FEBRUARY 2, A SPECIAL NON-WORKING
HOLIDAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SANTA MARIA, PROVINCE OF
BULACAN, IN COMMEMORATION OF THE RETURN OF THE IMAGE OF
THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY**

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

SECTION 1. The first Thursday of February of every year is hereby declared a special non-working holiday in the Municipality of Santa Maria, Province of Bulacan, to commemorate the historic return of the image of the Blessed Virgin Mary (*La Purisima Concepcion de Santa Maria*) to the municipality.

SEC. 2. In the event that the first Thursday of February falls on February 2, which coincides with the Feast of Our Lady of the Candles (Candelaria), the holiday shall be observed on the immediately following day to ensure the distinct solemnity of both religious and local historical events.

SEC. 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,