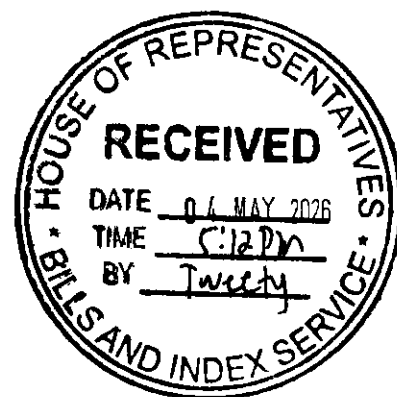




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

20th CONGRESS
1st Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9054



Introduced by Representative SITTIE SHAHARA "BAI DIMPLE" I. MASTURA

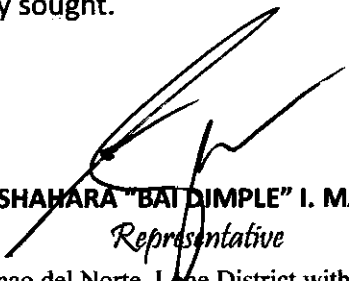
AN ACT
GRANTING AUTHORITY TO IMAMS TO SOLEMNIZE MARRIAGE, AMENDING FOR THE
PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 386, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to grant imams authority to solemnize marriages, placing them among the religious leaders duly authorized to perform marriage rites, such as priests, ministers, and rabbis.

Considered as an important social institution, this proposed measure, when enacted, will ensure that marriages are properly recorded under existing laws and that the particular importance accorded to most religions is applied to the rest as well.

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


SITTIE SHAHARA "BAI DIMPLE" I. MASTURA
Representative
Maguindanao del Norte, Lone District with Cotabato City



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

SECTION 1. Article 92 of Republic Act No. 386 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Article 92. Every priest, [or] minister, **IMAM**, or rabbi authorized by his denomination, church, sect, or religion to solemnize marriage shall send to the proper government office a sworn statement setting forth his full name and domicile, and that he is authorized by his denomination, church, sect, or religion to solemnize marriage, attaching to said statement, a certified copy of his appointment. The director of the proper government office, upon receiving such sworn statement containing the information required, and being satisfied that the denomination, church, sect, or religion of the applicant operates in the Philippines, shall record the name of such priest [or], minister, **IMAM, OR RABBI** in a suitable register and issue to him an authorization to solemnize marriage. Said priest [or], minister, **IMAM**, or rabbi shall be obliged to exhibit his authorization to the contracting parties, to their parents, grandparents, guardians, or persons in charge demanding the same. No priest [or], minister, **IMAM, OR RABBI** not having the required authorization may solemnize a marriage.”

SEC.2. Article 94 of Republic Act No. 386 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Article 94. The public official in charge of registration **UNDER THIS ACT** shall cancel the authorization issued to a bishop, head, priest, **IMAM**, rabbi, pastor, or minister of the gospel of any denomination, church, sect, or religion, on his own initiative, or at the request of any interested party, upon showing that the church, sect, or religion whose [ministers] **RELIGIOUS LEADERS** have been authorized to solemnize marriage is

no longer in operation. The cancellation of the authorization granted to a priest, pastor, or minister, **IMAM, AND RABBI** shall likewise be ordered upon the request of the bishop, head, or lawful authorities of the denomination, church, sect, or religion to which he belongs.”

SEC. 3. Article 95 of Republic Act No. 386 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Article 94. The public official in charge of registration **UNDER THIS ACT**, with the approval of the head of Department, is hereby authorized to prepare the necessary forms and to promulgate regulations for the purpose of enforcing the provisions of this Title. Said officials may also, by regulations, fix and collect fees for the authorization of priests, ministers, **IMAMS, AND RABBIS** to solemnize marriages.”

SEC. 4. *Separability Clause.* – Should any provisions of this Act be declared invalid, the remaining provisions shall continue to be valid and subsisting.

SEC. 5. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, issuances, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 6. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following the publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.