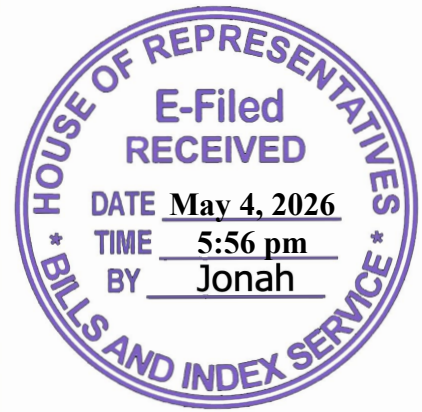


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
20TH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



House Bill No. 9069

Introduced by:
REP. JOEL R. CHUA and REP. FAUSTINO MICHAEL CARLOS T. DY III

**AN ACT GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO
NICHOLAS BUNGAL MARKANICH**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This proposed measure seeks to grant Philippine citizenship to Nicholas Bungal Markanich, a highly accomplished footballer of Filipino descent whose exceptional goal-scoring ability, discipline, and competitive drive embody the excellence and resilience of the Filipino spirit.

Born in Illinois, United States of America, Markanich's connection to the Philippines is firmly rooted through his mother, a Filipina born and raised in Cavite. His willingness to represent the country reflects a deep sense of identity and pride, reinforcing the strength and unity of Filipinos across the global diaspora.

Markanich honed his skills through four collegiate seasons at Northern Illinois University, where he appeared in sixty-nine matches and scored thirty-nine goals, establishing himself as a consistent and reliable attacking presence. He

further developed his game with Green Bay Voyageurs in USL League Two, recording five goals in fifteen appearances.

In 2022, he entered the professional ranks after being selected 30th overall in the Major League Soccer SuperDraft by FC Cincinnati, where he gained experience competing in both the senior team and MLS Next Pro. His career reached a significant milestone upon joining Charleston Battery in the USL Championship, where he delivered an outstanding 2024 season. He scored twenty-eight goals, setting a new single-season league record, and finished with thirty goals across all competitions. His performance earned him both the USL Championship Golden Boot and the distinction of USL Championship Player of the Year.

In August 2024, Markanich advanced to European football after signing with CD Castellón in Spain's Segunda División (LaLiga 2), further demonstrating his capacity to compete at higher levels of the global game. Notably, his twin brother, Anthony Bungal Markanich, is likewise a professional footballer, underscoring a strong athletic lineage.

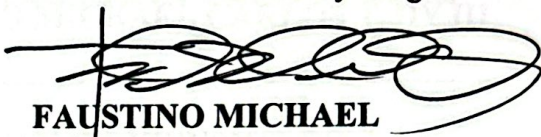
The grant of Philippine citizenship will formally establish Markanich's eligibility to represent the country in international competitions. His addition comes at a crucial time as the Philippines prepares for upcoming international competitions, including the 2026 ASEAN Championship this August 2026 and the FIFA ASEAN Cup 2026 in September. Strengthening the squad with players of his caliber is essential to enhancing the country's competitiveness and sustaining its progress on the regional and global stage.

More importantly, this measure affirms the State's commitment to recognizing and embracing Filipinos abroad who are willing to bring honor to the country. It reinforces the principle that national identity is not confined by place of birth, but is enriched by shared heritage, dedication, and a collective aspiration to succeed under the Philippine flag.

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



JOEL R. CHUA



FAUSTINO MICHAEL

CARLOS T. DY III

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**AN ACT GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP TO
NICHOLAS BUNGAL MARKANICH**

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

Section 1. *Grant of Philippine Citizenship to Nicholas Bungal Markanich.*

Nicholas Bungal Markanich is hereby granted Philippine citizenship with all the rights, privileges, and prerogatives, as well as the duties and obligations appurtenant thereto under the Constitution and the laws of the Republic of the Philippines.

Sec. 2. *Oath of Allegiance.* Nicholas Bungal Markanich shall take the Oath of Allegiance before an officer duly authorized to administer the same. The Oath of Allegiance shall be registered with the Bureau of Immigration.

Sec. 3. *Certificate of Naturalization and Enjoyment of Philippine Citizenship.*

Upon registration of the Oath of Allegiance, the Bureau of Immigration shall issue

a Certificate of Naturalization to Nicholas Bungal Markanich who shall thereupon enter into the full enjoyment of Philippine Citizenship.

Sec. 4. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in the Official Gazette or a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,