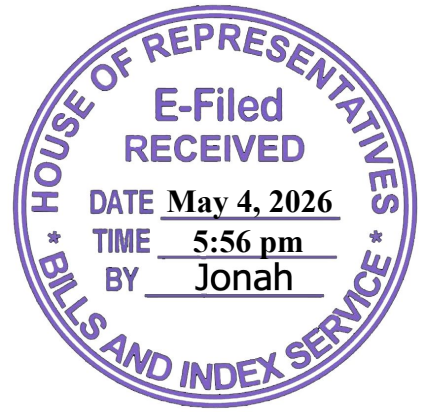


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
20TH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



House Bill No. 9070

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

**AN ACT GRANTING PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP
TO ANTHONY BUNGAL MARKANICH JR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This proposed measure seeks to grant Philippine citizenship to Anthony Bungal Markanich Jr., a skilled defender of Filipino descent whose discipline, versatility, and rising professional career reflect 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 affirms a strong sense of identity and pride, underscoring the enduring ties that unite Filipinos across the global diaspora. He currently plays as a defender for Minnesota United FC in Major League Soccer (MLS). His twin brother, Nicholas Bungal Markanich, is likewise a professional footballer.

Markanich distinguished himself at Northern Illinois University, where he made sixty-seven appearances, scored seventeen goals, and recorded twenty-four assists. His consistent performance earned him four All-Mid-American Conference (MAC) selections, including three First Team honors, demonstrating both his technical ability and attacking contribution from a defensive position.

He entered the professional ranks after being selected 26th overall in the 2022 MLS SuperDraft by the Colorado Rapids, where he made his MLS debut in May 2022. He was later traded to St. Louis City SC in August 2023, and subsequently joined Minnesota United FC in mid-2024. Since joining Minnesota, he has accumulated thirty-six appearances, including starts in continental competitions such as the Concacaf Champions Cup, reflecting his growing role and reliability at a high level of play.

Markanich was invited to the Philippine national team program in March 2024, highlighting his strong potential fit within the squad and the value of his professional experience. His inclusion would provide added depth and flexibility to the national team's defensive structure, particularly given his ability to contribute both defensively and in attacking build-up play.

The grant of Philippine citizenship will formally establish his eligibility to represent the country in international competitions. His addition comes at a crucial time as the Philippines prepares for upcoming tournaments, 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 strengthened through shared heritage, dedication, and a collective aspiration to succeed under the Philippine flag.

Markanich has expressed sincere pride in the opportunity to represent the Philippines, viewing it as a meaningful way to honor his family's heritage and contribute to the continued development of national football. His professionalism, humility, and proven ability at a high level reflect the character expected of those who carry the national 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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TO ANTHONY BUNGAL MARKANICH JR.**

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

Section 1. *Grant of Philippine Citizenship to Anthony Bungal Markanich Jr.*

Anthony Bungal Markanich Jr. 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.* Anthony Bungal Markanich Jr. 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 Anthony Bungal Markanich Jr. 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,