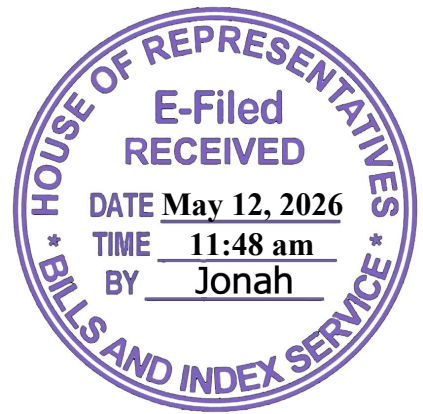


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9207



Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE AUDREY KAY T. ZUBIRI**

AN ACT
AMENDING COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 473, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
"REVISED NATURALIZATION LAW" AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Commonwealth Act No. 473, otherwise known as the Revised Naturalization Law, was enacted in 1939—more than eight decades ago—under societal conditions vastly different from those of the present time. While the law has served as the foundational framework for naturalization in the Philippines, many of its provisions no longer reflect contemporary global realities, migration trends, or current constitutional principles governing citizenship.

Today, the country is immersed in global economic, social, and cultural exchanges. Numerous foreign nationals have lived, worked, and raised families in the country, contributing significantly to local economies, industries, education, and community development. Despite these contributions, the existing Naturalization Law remains stringent, outdated, and procedurally burdensome, sometimes hindering otherwise qualified and long-residing individuals from fully integrating into Philippine society.

Hence, this proposed measure seeks to update and streamline the naturalization process by introducing substantial amendments to key provisions of Commonwealth Act No. 473.

The bill lowers the age and residency requirements to make the naturalization process more aligned with present-day standards and to allow qualified foreign nationals to integrate more effectively into Philippine society. It also updates the qualifications for naturalization,

including recognition of Filipino, English, or major Philippine languages, and a clearer requirement for applicants to engage in a known and lawful occupation. Special qualifications have likewise been revised to reflect contemporary realities, such as recognizing applicants who introduce new industries, useful inventions, engage in sustained socio-civic or philanthropic work, or were born in the Philippines. To strengthen national security, the bill expands the list of disqualifications to include individuals involved in terrorist organizations or terrorism-related activities.

This legislative measure reflects the current needs of the Filipino nation—recognizing individuals who have demonstrated loyalty, commitment, and significant positive contribution to the country, while safeguarding national security and ensuring that citizenship is granted only to those who fully embrace the values, principles, and duties of being a Filipino.

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


AUDREY KAY T. ZUBIRI
Representative, 3rd District of Bukidnon

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9207

Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE AUDREY KAY T. ZUBIRI**

AN ACT
AMENDING COMMONWEALTH ACT NO. 473, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE
“REVISED NATURALIZATION LAW” AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 **SECTION 1.** Section 2 of the Revised Naturalization Law is hereby amended to read as
2 follows:

3 "Sec. 2. *Qualifications.* Subject to section four of this Act, any person having the
4 following qualifications may become a citizen of the Philippines by naturalization:

5 [~~First.~~] 1. [~~He-m~~] Must not be less than [~~twenty-one~~] **EIGHTEEN (18)** years of age on
6 the day of the hearing of the petition;

7 [~~Second.~~] 2. [~~He-m~~] Must have resided in the Philippines for a continuous period of not
8 less than [~~ten~~] **FIVE (5)** years;

9 [~~Third.~~] 3. [~~He-m~~] Must be of good moral character and believe[s] in the principles
10 underlying the Philippine Constitution, and must have conducted himself in a proper
11 and irreproachable manner during the entire period of his residence in the Philippines
12 in his relation with the constituted government as well as with the community in which
13 he is living;

14 [~~Fourth. He must own real estate in the Philippines worth not less than five thousand~~
15 ~~pesos, Philippine currency, or must have some known lucrative trade, profession, or~~
16 ~~lawful occupation;~~]

17 **4. MUST HAVE SOME KNOWN LUCRATIVE TRADE, PROFESSION, OR**
18 **LAWFUL OCCUPATION FOR A PERIOD OF AT LEAST TWO (2) YEARS;**

1 ~~[Fifth.]~~ **5. [He-m]** Must be able to speak and write in **FILIPINO**, English, ~~[or Spanish]~~
2 or any one of the principal Philippine languages; **AND**

3 ~~[Sixth.]~~ **6. [He-m]** Must have enrolled his minor children of school age in any of the
4 public or private schools recognized by the ~~[Office of Private Education of the Philippines,]~~
5 DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OR COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION, where
6 ~~[the]~~ Philippine history, government and civics are taught or prescribed as part of the school
7 curriculum, during the entire period of residence in the Philippines required ~~[of him]~~ prior to
8 the hearing of his OR HER petition for naturalization as Philippine citizen."
9

10 **SEC. 2.** Section 3 is hereby amended to read as follows:

11 "**Sec. 3. *Special qualifications.*** The ~~[ten]~~ **FIVE** years of continuous residence required
12 under the last preceding section shall be ~~[understood as]~~ reduced to ~~[five]~~ **THREE (3)**
13 years for any petitioner having any of the following qualifications:

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

16 ~~[2-]~~ **1.** Having established a new industry or introduced a useful invention in the
17 Philippines;

18 ~~[3-]~~ **2.** Being married to a Filipino ~~[woman]~~ citizen;

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

23 **3.** Having been born in the Philippines; or

24 ~~[5-]~~ **4. HAVING ENGAGED IN CONSISTENT CHARITABLE, SOCIO-CIVIC**
25 **OR PHILANTHROPIC WORK IN THE PHILIPPINES DURING THE ENTIRE**
26 **PERIOD OF RESIDENCE REQUIRED AND RECOGNIZED BY THE LOCAL**
27 **COMMUNITY WHICH BENEFITED BY SUCH ACTIVITY."**
28

29 **SEC. 3.** Section 4 is hereby amended to read as follows:

30 "**Sec. 4. Who are disqualified. - XXX**

31 **1.** Persons opposed to organized government or affiliated with any association or
32 group of persons who uphold and teach doctrines opposing all organized
33 governments;

2. Persons defending or teaching the necessity or propriety of violence, personal assault, assassination or acts of terrorism for the success and predominance of their ideas;
 3. Polygamists or believers in the practice of polygamy;
 4. Persons convicted of crimes involving moral turpitude;
 5. Persons suffering from mental [~~alienation~~] INCAPACITY or incurable contagious diseases;
 6. Persons who, during the period of their residence in the Philippines, have not mingled socially with Filipinos, or who have not evinced a sincere desire to learn and embrace the customs, traditions, and ideals of Filipinos;
 7. Citizens or subjects of nations with whom [~~the United States and~~] the Philippines [~~are~~] IS at war, during the period of such war;
 8. 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;
- AND
9. MEMBERS OF A JUDICIALLY DECLARED AND OUTLAWED TERRORIST ORGANIZATION, ASSOCIATION OR GROUP OF PERSONS, OR OF ANY PERSON CHARGED WITH OR SUSPECTED OF THE CRIME OF TERRORISM OR CONSPIRACY TO COMMIT TERRORISM, ACCORDING TO REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9372 OR THE HUMAN SECURITY ACT."

SEC. 4. Section 7 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 7. Petition for citizenship. -XXX

ANY APPLICANT WHO HAS RESIDED CONTINUOUSLY IN THE PHILIPPINES FOR A PERIOD OF TWENTY (20) YEARS OR MORE PRIOR TO THE FILING OF HIS PETITION IS NOT CONSTRAINED FROM LEAVING THE PHILIPPINES WHILE HIS PETITION IS PENDING IN COURT, AND THEREFORE, IS NOT REQUIRED TO STATE IN HIS PETITION THAT HE WILL RESIDE CONTINUOUSLY IN THE PHILIPPINES FROM THE DATE OF THE FILING OF THE PETITION UP TO THE TIME OF HIS ADMISSION TO PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP."

SEC. 5. Section 9 is hereby amended to read as follows:

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

11 **NO PETITION FOR PHILIPPINE CITIZENSHIP SHALL BE HEARD BY THE**
12 **COURT UNTIL AFTER SIX MONTHS FROM THE DATE OF THE LAST**
13 **PUBLICATION OF THE NOTICE.** The clerk shall, as soon as possible, forward
14 copies of the petition, the sentence, the naturalization certificate, and other pertinent
15 data to the [~~Department of the Interior, the Bureau of Justice, the Provincial Inspector~~
16 ~~of the Philippine Constabulary of the province and the Justice of the Peace of the~~
17 ~~municipality wherein the petitioner resides]~~ **OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT, THE**
18 **OFFICE OF THE SOLICITOR GENERAL, THE PROVINCIAL DIRECTOR**
19 **OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL POLICE AND THE REGIONAL TRIAL**
20 **COURT WHERE THE PETITIONER RESIDES."**

21
22 **SEC. 6.** Section 10 is hereby amended to read as follows:

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

1 CERTIFICATE IN THE PROPER CIVIL REGISTRY IN ACCORDANCE
2 WITH SECTION 12 OF THIS ACT."
3

4 SEC. 7. Section 11 is hereby amended to read as follows:

5 "Sec. 11. *Appeal.* -The [final sentence] DECISION OF THE REGIONAL TRIAL
6 COURT may, at the instance of either of the parties, be appealed to the [Supreme
7 Court] COURT OF APPEALS."
8

9 SEC. 8. Section 12 is hereby amended to read as follows:

10 "Sec. 12. *Issuance of the Certificate of Naturalization.* -[If, after the lapse of thirty
11 days from and after the date on which the parties were notified of the Court, no appeal
12 has been filed, or if, upon appeal, the decision of the court has been confirmed by the
13 Supreme Court, and the said decision has become final, the clerk of court which heard
14 the petition shall issue to the petitioner a naturalization certificate which shall, among
15 other things, state the following:] THE DECISION RENDERED BY THE
16 REGIONAL TRIAL COURT, OR PROMULGATED BY THE APPELLATE
17 COURT, SHALL BECOME FINAL AFTER THE LAPSE OF THIRTY DAYS
18 FROM THE DATE OF NOTICE.
19

20 NO DECISION GRANTING THE PETITION FOR PHILIPPINE
21 CITIZENSHIP SHALL BECOME EXECUTORY UNTIL AFTER ONE (1)
22 YEAR FROM ITS PROMULGATION AND AFTER THE COURT, ON
23 PROPER HEARING, WITH THE ATTENDANCE OF THE SOLICITOR
24 GENERAL OR HIS REPRESENTATIVE, IS SATISFIED, AND SO FINDS,
25 THAT DURING THE INTERVENING TIME, THE PETITIONER HAS:
26

- 27 1. NOT LEFT THE PHILIPPINES, UNLESS GRANTED A TRAVEL
28 AUTHORITY BY THE SECRETARY OF JUSTICE OR HIS DULY
29 DESIGNATED REPRESENTATIVE;
- 30 2. DEDICATED HIMSELF CONTINUOUSLY TO A LAWFUL
31 CALLING OR PROFESSION;
- 32 3. NOT BEEN CONVICTED OF ANY OFFENSE OR VIOLATION OF
33 GOVERNMENT PROMULGATED RULES; OR

1 4. NOT COMMITTED ANY ACT PREJUDICIAL TO THE INTEREST
2 OF THE NATION OR CONTRARY TO ANY GOVERNMENT
3 ANNOUNCED POLICIES;

4 5.

5 *PROVIDED*, THAT THE DECISION GRANTING THE APPLICATION
6 IS IMMEDIATELY EXECUTORY UPON FINALITY THEREOF IF THE
7 PETITIONER HAS RESIDED CONTINUOUSLY IN THE COUNTRY FOR A
8 PERIOD OF TWENTY (20) YEARS OR MORE BEFORE FILING HIS OR HER
9 PETITION.

10
11 UPON A FINDING THAT THE ABOVE CONDITIONS HAVE BEEN
12 SATISFIED, THE ORDER OF THE COURT GRANTING CITIZENSHIP
13 SHALL BE REGISTERED AND THE APPLICANT SHALL, IN OPEN COURT,
14 TAKE THE FOLLOWING OATH, WHEREUPON, AND NOT BEFORE, HE
15 WILL BE ENTITLED TO ALL THE PRIVILEGES OF A FILIPINO CITIZEN:

16
17 "I, _____, SOLEMNLY SWEAR THAT I RENOUNCE
18 ABSOLUTELY AND FOREVER ALL ALLEGIANCE AND FIDELITY TO
19 ANY FOREIGN PRINCE, POTENTATE, STATE OR SOVEREIGNTY, AND
20 PARTICULARLY TO THE _____ OF WHICH AT THIS
21 TIME I AM A SUBJECT OR CITIZEN; THAT I WILL SUPPORT AND
22 DEFEND THE CONSTITUTION OF THE PHILIPPINES AND THAT I WILL
23 OBEY THE LAWS, LEGAL ORDERS AND DECREES PROMULGATED BY
24 THE DULY CONSTITUTED AUTHORITIES OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE
25 PHILIPPINES.

26
27 SO HELP ME GOD."

28
29 THE CLERK OF COURT WHICH HEARD THE PETITION SHALL
30 ISSUE A NATURALIZATION CERTIFICATE WHICH SHALL, AMONG
31 OTHER THINGS, STATE THE FOLLOWING: The file number of the petition,
32 the number of the naturalization certificate, the signature of the person naturalized
33 affixed in the presence of the clerk of the court, the personal circumstances of the person
34 naturalized, the dates on which his declaration of intention and petition were filed, the

1 date of the decision granting the petition, and the name of the judge who rendered the
2 decision.

3 A photograph of the petitioner with the dry seal affixed thereto of the court
4 which granted the petition must be affixed to the certificate."

5 [xxx]
6

7 **SEC. 9.** Section 15 is hereby amended to read as follows:

8 "**Sec. 15. *Effect of the naturalization on spouse and children.*** - Any [woman]
9 **PERSON** who is now or may hereafter be married to a NATURAL-BORN citizen of
10 the Philippines, and who might **HIMSELF OR** herself be lawfully naturalized shall be
11 deemed a citizen of the Philippines. **XXX**"
12

13 **SEC. 10.** Section 16 is hereby amended to read as follows:

14 "**Sec. 16. *Right of [widow] SURVIVING SPOUSE and children of petitioner[s] who***
15 ***[have] HAS died.*** - In case a petitioner should die before the final decision has been
16 rendered, his **OR HER [widow] SURVIVING SPOUSE** and children may continue
17 the proceedings. The decision rendered in the case shall, so far as the [widow]
18 **SURVIVING SPOUSE** and minor children are concerned, produce the same legal
19 effect as if it has been rendered during the life of the petitioner.
20

21 **SEC. 11. *Transitory provision.*** Upon the effectivity of this Act, its provisions shall apply to
22 cases pending in court and to those where the applicant has not yet taken the oath of citizenship.
23

24 **SEC. 12. *Separability clause.*** - If any provision, section or part of this Act shall be declared
25 unconstitutional or invalid, such judgment shall not affect, invalidate or impair any other
26 provisions, sections or parts hereof.
27

28 **SEC. 13. *Repealing clause.*** Republic Act No. 530, and such other laws, decrees, orders, rules
29 and regulations as are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.
30

31 **SEC. 14. *Effectivity.*** This Act shall take effect within fifteen (15) days after its publication in
32 the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.
33

34 *Approved,*