



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. **9322**

Introduced by Representative John Geesnell "Baba" Yap

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to declare March 17 of every year a special non-working holiday in the Municipality of Antequera, Province of Bohol, to be known as the "*Antequera Charter Day*," in commemoration of its founding anniversary.

The Municipality of Antequera in the Province of Bohol, was founded on March 17, 1876, by virtue of a Superior Decree issued by then Philippine Governor General Romualdo Crespo. Formerly a barangay of Maribojoc called "*Agad*," Antequera was named after the hometown in Spain of then District of Bohol Governor Joaquin Bengoechia, who issued another proclamation identifying Antequera's boundaries as a new town. Over generations, the town has grown into a vibrant municipality of roughly 14,800 residents across 21 barangays, known for its basket-weaving traditions and natural attractions, including Mag-Aso Falls.

March 17 marks the formal beginning of a community whose identity has been shaped by the land, the terrain, and the hands of its people. On this day each year, Antequeranhons from all parts of the province gather to celebrate a time-honored tradition representing their resilience, cultural heritage, and unity. Residents, students, and workers of Antequera collaborate in harmony to honor their town's rich history, participate in the Piskaya Antequera festivities, and showcase their local "Basket Capital" pride.

Declaring March 17 of each year as a special non-working holiday in Antequera will preserve its cultural heritage, reaffirm its local identity, promote

its living traditions, and strengthen intergenerational ties. Further, this will boost micro-enterprises, activate tourism, and encourage investment and skills development in the area. This measure transforms a date on the calendar into a living festival that honors the past, uplifts present livelihoods, and builds a shared future.

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


JOHN GEESNELL “Baba” YAP



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AN ACT
DECLARING MARCH 17 OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL NON-
WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF ANTEQUERA,
PROVINCE OF BOHOL, TO BE KNOWN AS THE “ANTEQUERA
CHARTER DAY,” IN COMMEMORATION OF ITS FOUNDING
ANNIVERSARY

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

SECTION 1. March 17 of every year is hereby declared a special non-working holiday in the Municipality of Antequera, Province of Bohol, to be known as the “*Antequera Charter Day*,” in commemoration of its founding anniversary.

SEC. 2. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,