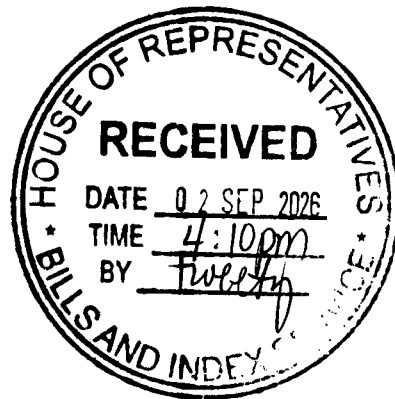




Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
Second Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. **11099**

Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE KATRINA REIKO CHUA - TAI**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Zamboanga City shines as a vibrant jewel in the tapestry of Mindanao and the Philippines, its story woven with history, culture, and economic progress. Since its formal inauguration as a chartered city on February 26, 1937, Zamboanga has blossomed into a lively urban hub, all while cherishing the traditions, values, and cultural spirit that set it apart.

Zamboanga City bursts with color and festivity, its spirit alive in every celebration, melody, dance, and dish. The city's rich heritage springs from the harmonious blending of indigenous peoples and communities of varied cultures, faiths, and languages. From its Chavacano roots to its historic landmarks and vibrant festivals, Zamboanga's unique way of life is a living testament to the Philippine identity. Here, traditions are not just celebrated, they are cherished legacies, handed down from one Zamboangueño generation to the next.

The city's vibrant culture is a powerful engine for tourism and economic growth. Its sun-kissed pink beaches, enchanting islands, storied landmarks, lively festivals, and flavorful cuisine invite travelers from near and far, opening doors for local entrepreneurs, artists, artisans, and businesses. As Zamboanga City flourishes, its cultural treasures and natural wonders remain vital foundations for sustainable tourism, investment, and new opportunities for its people.

Zamboanga City has emerged as a bustling hub of commerce and economic activity in Southwestern Mindanao. Its thriving agriculture, fisheries, trade, manufacturing, and vibrant service sectors fuel the region's prosperity. With each stride forward, new opportunities arise for residents, along with a shared responsibility for the community and local government to nurture and enhance the resources, traditions, and public spaces that enrich the city's way of life.

This proposed measure offers all Zamboanga City residents a yearly chance to come together in celebration, reflection, and shared pride during the City's Charter Anniversary. More than marking a date in history, February 26 becomes a special day for families, students, workers, businesses, artists, community groups, and visitors to unite in honoring the city's achievements, rich heritage, diversity, and ongoing journey of progress.

As Zamboanga City grows, so does the responsibility to safeguard its cultural treasures, historic sites, traditions, and natural wonders for generations yet to come. A permanent Charter Anniversary holiday can inspire deeper public appreciation and spark initiatives that protect, restore, and celebrate these irreplaceable assets.

Making February 26 a special holiday each year will stand as a lasting tribute to Zamboanga's vital role in shaping the culture and economy of Mindanao and the Philippines. It offers the people of Zamboanga a moment to celebrate their shared identity, honor those who built the city, and renew their dedication to preserving its unique spirit as it continues to thrive.

This measure is more than just an extra day off. It aims to establish a meaningful tradition that celebrates Zamboanga City's journey, honors those who have shaped its progress, and inspires the preservation and enrichment of its cultural, historical, environmental, and economic treasures. It also seeks to ignite civic pride and invite every generation to help protect and nurture the city's heritage.

As Zamboanga City moves forward, it becomes ever more important to anchor its progress in history and celebrate its vibrant cultural diversity. A permanent Charter Anniversary holiday offers the perfect moment to honor this growth and renew the shared commitment to safeguard and enhance the city's precious heritage for today and tomorrow.

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



KATRINA REIKO CHUA-TAI



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HOUSE BILL NO. **11099**

Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE KATRINA REIKO CHUA-TAI**

1 **AN ACT**
2 **DECLARING FEBRUARY 26 OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL (NON-WORKING)**
3 **HOLIDAY THROUGHOUT THE CITY OF ZAMBOANGA IN COMMEMORATION OF**
4 **ITS CHARTER ANNIVERSARY**

5
6 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in*
7 *Congress assembled:*

8
9 SECTION 1. ***Declaration of February 26 as a Special (Non-Working) Holiday.*** - February
10 26 of every year is hereby declared a special (non-working) holiday throughout the City of
11 Zamboanga in commemoration of the Charter Anniversary of the City of Zamboanga.

12
13 SEC. 2. ***Purpose.*** – The declaration of February 26 as a special (non-working) holiday shall
14 provide the people of Zamboanga City an opportunity to commemorate the city's charter
15 anniversary, honor its historical heritage, celebrate its cultural identity, and participate in
16 appropriate civic, educational, cultural, and community activities.

17
18 SEC. 3. ***Applicability of Existing Laws.*** – The compensation, benefits, and other
19 employment conditions of workers who render services on February 26 shall be governed by
20 existing labor laws, rules, and regulations applicable to special (non-working) holidays.

1 Government offices and private establishments providing essential and emergency services
2 may continue their operations as necessary to protect public health, safety, security, and other vital
3 public interests.

4
5 SEC. 4. *Separability Clause.* — If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or
6 unconstitutional, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

7
8 SEC. 5. *Repealing Clause.* — All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, and other
9 issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified
10 accordingly.

11
12 SEC. 6. *Effectivity.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
13 the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

14
15 *Approved,*