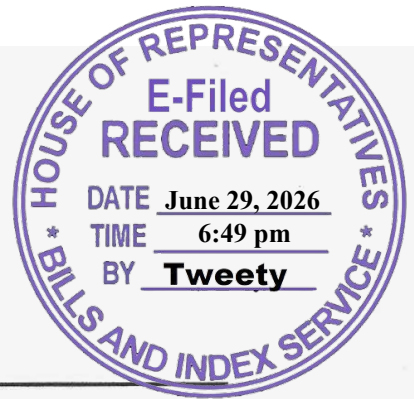


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session



COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 474

Submitted by the Committee on Basic Education and Culture on
June 29, 2026

Re : **House Bill No. 9970**

Recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 615.

Sponsor : Representative Roman T. Romulo

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Basic Education and Culture, to which was referred House Bill No. 615, introduced by Representative Antonino B. Roman III, entitled:

AN ACT

**DECLARING THE FIRST WEEK OF SEPTEMBER OF EVERY YEAR
AS "NATIONAL ENGLISH COMPETENCY WEEK" TO PROMOTE
ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY AND COMPETENCE, AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

has considered the same and recommends that the attached House Bill No.
9970, entitled:

AN ACT

**DECLARING THE FIRST WEEK OF SEPTEMBER OF EVERY YEAR
AS NATIONAL ENGLISH COMPETENCY WEEK TO PROMOTE
ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY AND COMPETENCE**

be approved in substitution of House Bill No. 615, with Representatives Antonino B. Roman III, Roman T. Romulo, Kenneth T. Gatchalian, Laarni Lavin Roque, Katrina Reiko Chua-Tai, Jaime R. Fresnedi, Salvador A. Pleyto, Ma. Isabel L. Sagarbarria, Jesus "Jess" R. Marquez, Antonio A. Ferrer, Dibu S. Tuan, Edwin L. Cruzado M.D., Carmelo G. Lazatin, Jr., Iris Marie Demesa Montes, Ma. Victoria Co-Pilar, Timothy Joseph E. Cayton, Nelson "JR" Dayanghirang, and Irene G. Labadlabad as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted,

ROMAN T. ROMULO

Chairperson

Committee on Basic Education and Culture

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 9970
(In substitution of House Bill No. 615)

Introduced by Representatives Antonino B. Roman III, Roman T. Romulo, Kenneth T. Gatchalian, Laarni Lavin Roque, Katrina Reiko Chua-Tai, Jaime R. Fresnedi, Salvador A. Pleyto, Ma. Isabel L. Sagarbarria, Jesus “Jess” R. Marquez, Antonio A. Ferrer, Dibu S. Tuan, Edwin L. Cruzado M.D., Carmelo G. Lazatin, Jr., Iris Marie Demesa Montes, Ma. Victoria Co-Pilar, Timothy Joseph E. Cayton, Nelson “JR” Dayanghirang, and Irene G. Labadlabad

AN ACT
DECLARING THE FIRST WEEK OF SEPTEMBER OF EVERY YEAR AS
NATIONAL ENGLISH COMPETENCY WEEK TO PROMOTE ENGLISH
LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY AND COMPETENCE

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the “National English Competency Week Act”.

SEC. 2. It is the policy of the State to uphold English proficiency as a tool for national competitiveness, global engagement, and personal advancement. The State shall promote awareness on the importance of the English language, implement programs to encourage its effective use, and support its instruction and practice in educational and professional settings.

SEC. 3. The first week of September of every year is hereby declared a National English Competency Week. During this period, schools, government agencies, local government units, and private institutions are encouraged to mount programs and activities designed to promote English proficiency.

SEC. 4. The following activities may be undertaken as part of the celebration:

- a. Debates, declamation, and essay-writing contests;
- b. Public speaking and writing workshops;
- c. Spelling bees and storytelling events;
- d. Forums and panel discussions in English; and
- e. Recognition of English-language excellence among students and government workers.

1 **SEC. 5.** The following departments and agencies shall jointly lead the observance and
2 programming of the National English Competency Week:

- 3
4 a. Department of Education (DepEd);
5 b. Commission on Higher Education (CHED);
6 c. Civil Service Commission (CSC);
7 d. Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE);
8 e. Philippine Information Agency (PIA); and
9 f. Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA).

10
11 These government departments and agencies shall issue a joint calendar of activities
12 relative to the observance of National English Competency Week: *Provided*, That the
13 schedule of the joint calendar of activities shall in no way disrupt the conduct of regular
14 classes in schools.

15
16 **SEC. 6.** Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DepEd, CHED,
17 CSC, DOLE, PIA, and TESDA shall jointly issue the rules and regulations
18 implementing the provisions of this Act.

19 .
20 **SEC. 7.** If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining
21 provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

22
23 **SEC. 8.** All laws, executive orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are
24 hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

25
26 **SEC. 9.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official*
27 *Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

28
29 *Approved,*

**House of Representatives
Committee Affairs Department**

FACT SHEET

House Bill No. 9970
(In substitution of House Bill No. 615)

(Approved by the Committee on Feb. 2, 2026)

AN ACT DECLARING THE FIRST WEEK OF SEPTEMBER OF EVERY YEAR AS NATIONAL ENGLISH COMPETENCY WEEK TO PROMOTE ENGLISH LANGUAGE PROFICIENCY AND COMPETENCE

Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVES ANTONINO B. ROMAN III, ROMAN T. ROMULO, KENNETH T. GATCHALIAN, LAARNI LAVIN ROQUE, KATRINA REIKO CHUA-TAI, JAIME R. FRESNEDI, SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, MA. ISABEL L. SAGARBARRIA, JESUS “JESS” R. MARQUEZ, ANTONIO A. FERRER, DIBU S. TUAN, EDWIN L. CRUZADO M.D., CARMELO G. LAZATIN, JR., IRIS MARIE DEMESA MONTES, MA. VICTORIA CO-PILAR, TIMOTHY JOSEPH E. CAYTON, NELSON “JR” DAYANGHIRANG, AND IRENE G. LABADLABAD**

Committee Referral: **COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION & CULTURE**

Committee Chairperson: **REP. ROMAN T. ROMULO**

OBJECTIVES:

- To promote and strengthen English language proficiency among Filipinos through the institutionalization of the National English Competency Week
- To enhance the global competitiveness and employability of Filipino learners and workers and improve educational outcomes by strengthening communication skills necessary for education, business, and international engagement

KEY PROVISIONS:

- Declares the first week of September of every year as National English Competency Week to promote English language proficiency and competence nationwide
- Identifies allowable programs and activities such as debates, declamation and essay-writing contests, public speaking and writing workshops, spelling bees, storytelling events, forums and panel discussions in English, recognition of English-language excellence among students and government workers
- Designates the Department of Education (DepEd), Commission on Higher Education (CHED), Civil Service Commission (CSC), Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE), Philippine Information Agency (PIA), and the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA) as the lead departments and agencies to jointly implement the observance of the National English Competency Week

- Directs the DepEd, CHED, CSC, DOLE, PIA, and TESDA to issue a joint calendar of activities relative to the celebration of the National English Competency Week, provided that the schedule of the joint calendar of activities shall in no way disrupt the conduct of regular classes in schools
- Mandates the DepEd, CHED, CSC, DOLE, PIA, and TESDA to jointly issue the rules and regulations implementing the provisions of this Act

RELATED LAWS:

- The 1987 Constitution, (Article XIV, Section 7)
- Republic Act No. 10533, or the “Enhanced Basic Education Act of 2013”