



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 9970

BY REPRESENTATIVES ROMAN, ROMULO, GATCHALIAN, ROQUE, CHUA-TAI, FRESNEDI, PLEYTO, SAGARBARRIA, MARQUEZ, FERRER (A.), TUAN, CRUZADO, LAZATIN, MONTES, CO-PILAR, CAYTON, DAYANGHIRANG, LABADLABAD, RIVERA, BARZAGA, MADRONA, DOMOGAN, ORETA, AUMENTADO, UY (R.), LACSON, DIMAGUILA, ANGELES, BAUTISTA-LIM, BARBA, CAGAS, LEGACION, AGYAO, MANGUDADATU, EMANO, COLLANTES, GONZALES (A.M.) AND GONZALES (R.)

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:

1 **SECTION 1.** This Act shall be known as the "National English Competency Week Act".

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

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

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

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16 (a) Debates, declamation, and essay-writing contests;
17 (b) Public speaking and writing workshops;
18 (c) Spelling bees and storytelling events;
19 (d) Forums and panel discussions in English; and
20 (e) Recognition of English-language excellence among students and
21 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).

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24 hereby repealed or amended accordingly.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

Approved,