

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

 Office of the Secretary

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SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

S. No. 1114

Introduced by Senator Loren B. Legarda

AN ACT
PRESERVING THE COUNTRY'S TRADITIONAL FOLK ARTS AS
PART OF ITS INTANGIBLE CULTURAL HERITAGE, AMENDING
FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11333, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS THE "NATIONAL MUSEUM OF THE PHILIPPINES
ACT" AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 11333, otherwise known as the "*National Museum of the Philippines Act*," was enacted into law last April 26, 2019. The law designates the National Museum of the Philippines as the country's primary institution for the "management and development of museums and collections of national scope or significance in the areas of arts, cultural heritage, and natural history."¹ It also aims to strengthen the regional, area, and site museums and satellite offices of the National Museum by expanding the Museum's services to every region of the Philippines. By doing so, our regional museums are primed to become premier informational and cultural centers of those localities to benefit both residents and tourists alike.

Without a doubt, R.A. No. 11333 has created a stronger national policy to protect our heritage. However, in order for generations of young Filipinos to fully appreciate our country's rich history and heritage, we must also take steps towards

¹ An Act Strengthening the National Museum of the Philippines, Repealing for the Purpose R.A. No. 8492, Otherwise Known as the "National Museum Act of 1998", and Appropriating Funds Therefor [National Museum of the Philippines Act], Republic Act. No. 11333, 4 (2019).

preserving the traditional folk arts, an incredibly valuable facet of Philippine culture. The conservation and transfer of cultural heritage in the Philippines has often been expressed through the country's various traditional folk arts, through its *Manlilikha ng Bayan*, and Schools of Living Tradition programs. This follows the second approach advocated by the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in ensuring the transmission of such valuable knowledge to the younger generation.

Towards this end, this bill seeks to require the regional museums to serve as venues in ensuring the conservation and preservation of our country's traditional folk arts. The proposed measure will enable the National Museum to fulfill its mandate better to develop our regional museums as vital learning resource centers that will showcase every aspect of the artistic, cultural, and natural heritage of the Filipino people.

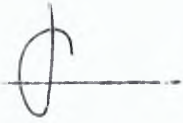
In view of the foregoing, the immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



LOREN LEGARDA

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

1 Section. 1. Section 10 of Republic Act No. 11333, otherwise known as the
2 "*National Museum Philippines Act*", is hereby amended to read as follows:

3 "SEC. 10. *Central Museums.* - The central museums of the National
4 Museum shall include the existing National Museum of Fine Arts,
5 National Museum of Anthropology, National Museum of Natural History
6 and the National Planetarium. The National Museum shall also take steps
7 towards the establishment of central museums dedicated to archaeology,
8 **TRADITIONAL FOLK ARTS**, maritime and underwater cultural
9 heritage, architectural arts and built heritage, and political and social
10 history, which may be established within its National Museum Complex
11 or elsewhere within the National Capital Region as appropriate, together
12 with an institute for professional education, training and development in
13 museology and allied fields, and a conservation center for movable
14 cultural properties of national significance."

15 Sec. 2. Sec. 11 of R.A. No. 11333 is hereby amended to read as follows:

1 “SEC. 11. *Regional, Area, and Site Museums and Satellite Offices.* – The
2 National Museum shall maintain its existing regional, area and site
3 museums and satellite offices and, if none exists, take steps towards
4 establishing a regional museum and satellite office in each administrative
5 region of the Philippines beyond the National Capital Region, as well as
6 area and site museums and offices wherever necessary: *Provided, That*
7 **MUSEUM BRANCHES WITH TEN (10) OR MORE PERSONNEL**
8 **AND/OR HIGH PROPERTY ACCOUNTABILITY OR CULTURAL**
9 **VALUE SHALL BE UPGRADED TO REGIONAL MUSEUMS UPON**
10 **RECOMMENDATION OF THE DIRECTOR-GENERAL OF THE**
11 **NATIONAL MUSEUM: PROVIDED FURTHER, THAT** such regional
12 network of the National Museum shall be coordinated with that of the
13 National Historical Commission of the Philippines, the National
14 Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA), and other relevant cultural
15 agencies to prevent institutional duplication.

16 **THE REGIONAL MUSEUMS SHALL SERVE AS**
17 **INFORMATION AND CULTURAL CENTERS OFFERING**
18 **COMPREHENSIVE AND SUBSTANTIAL COLLECTION OF LOCAL**
19 **ARCHAEOLOGICAL FINDS, OBJECTS OF ART, TRADITIONAL**
20 **FOLK ARTS, AND OTHER LOCAL CULTURAL TREASURES, AND**
21 **SHALL, IN COORDINATION WITH THE NCCA, SPEARHEAD THE**
22 **CONSERVATION, PRESERVATION, AND PROMOTION OF THE**
23 **CULTURAL HERITAGE OF THE SCHOOLS OF LIVING TRADITION**
24 **FOUND WITHIN THEIR LOCALITIES.**

25 The specific sites of new regional, area and site museums and
26 satellite offices shall be selected based on considerations of geography,
27 population distribution, and administrative efficiency as well as of
28 outstanding national artistic, cultural and natural heritage significance,
29 and educational, environmental and tourism considerations.”

30 Sec. 3. A new Section 13 of R.A. No. 11333 is hereby inserted to read as follows
31 and the succeeding sections shall be renumbered accordingly:

1 “SEC. 13. *Creation of Traditional Folk Arts Museums.* - THE
2 NATIONAL MUSEUM SHALL FACILITATE THE CREATION OF
3 TRADITIONAL FOLK ARTS MUSEUMS IN SELECT PROVINCES:
4 *PROVIDED*, THAT THESE PROVINCES SHALL BEAR THE
5 FUNDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION AND MAINTANENANCE
6 OF SUCH FACILITIES: *PROVIDED FURTHER*, THAT THESE
7 TRADITIONAL FOLK ARTS MUSEUMS SHALL BE DIRECTLY
8 MANAGED AND SUPERVISED BY THEIR RESPECTIVE
9 PROVINCES WITH ASSISTANCE FROM AN ADVISORY PANEL
10 COMPOSED OF PERSONNEL FROM THE REGIONAL AND
11 NATIONAL MUSEUMS.”

12 *Sec. 4. Separability Clause.* - If, for any reason, any part, section or provision of
13 this Act shall be held invalid or unconstitutional, the other parts, sections or
14 provisions hereof shall not be affected thereby.

15 *Sec. 5. Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and
16 regulations, issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are
17 hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

18 *Sec. 6. Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
19 complete publication either in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of
20 general circulation.

Approved,