

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



23 JAN 11 P5:41

SENATE
Senate Bill No. 1651

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by: **Senator Raffy T. Tulfo**

**"AN ACT RATIONALIZING THE CELEBRATION OF NATIONAL HOLIDAYS
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9492"**

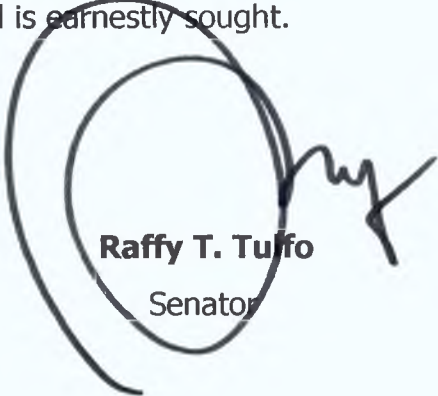
Explanatory Note

Holidays are integral in order to honor and commemorate special events or traditions with cultural or religious significance. The Philippines celebrates 18 national holidays a year, 4 of which are considered "special non-working holidays". These aforementioned days may at times fall on a weekend making them feel less celebratory for individuals. Additionally, the increase in the number of long weekends can help reduce stress, prevent burnout, and promote work-life balance for both employees and students by allowing them to decompress and spend time with their family and friends.

With that being said, this bill aims to amend the existing Republic Act 9492 which permits certain movable holidays to be observed on a Monday with the purpose of allowing long weekends during the year. Originally, this law was passed in 2007 under the presidency of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo who sought to boost domestic tourism in the country. However, the term of President Benigno Aquino III saw the end of the Arroyo administration's practice of moving holidays to the nearest Monday with the release of Proclamation 84.

This bill, therefore, proposes to follow the original intent of Republic Act 9492, and every first Monday of December the President shall issue a proclamation on the specific dates that shall be declared as a non-working day for the following year.

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



Raffy T. Tufo
Senator



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

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "*Holiday Act of 2023*"

2
3 Sec 2. Section 1 of Republic Act No. 9492 is hereby amended to read as
4 follows:

5
6 "SEC. 26. Regular Holidays and Nationwide Special Days. — The following
7 regular holidays and special days shall be observed in the country:

8 a) Regular Holidays:

9 i) New Year's Day - January 1

10 ii) Maudy Thursday - Movable Date

11 iii) Good Friday - Movable Date

12 iv) Eidul Fitr - Movable Date

13 v) Eidul Adha – Movable Date

14 vi) Araw ng Kagitingan (Bataan and Corregidor Day) - Monday
15 nearest April 9

16 vii) Labor Day - Monday nearest May 1

17 viii) Independence Day - Monday nearest June 12

18 ix) National Heroes Day - Last Monday of August

19 x) Bonifacio Day - Monday nearest November 30

20 xi) Christmas Day - December 25

21 xii) Rizal Day - Monday nearest December 30

- 1 b) Nationwide Special Holidays
2 i) **Chinese New Year - Movable Date**
3 ii) **EDSA People Power Revolution Anniversary - Monday**
4 **nearest February 25**
5 iii) Ninoy Aquino Day - Monday nearest August 21
6 iv) All Saint's Day - November 1
7 v) Last day of the Year - December 31
8 c) In the event the holiday falls on a Wednesday, the holiday will be
9 observed on the Monday of that week. **If the holiday falls on a**
10 **Saturday or Sunday, it will be observed on the following**
11 **Monday.**

12 Provided, That for movable holidays, the President shall issue a proclamation **on the**
13 **first Monday of December** [~~at least six months prior to the holiday concerned,~~] the
14 specific dates that shall be declared as a nonworking day for the following year, **in**
15 **accordance with the provisions of this law.**

16 *Sec 3. Repealing Clause* – All laws, orders presidential issuances, rules and
17 regulations or part thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or
18 modified accordingly.

19 *Sec 4. Effectivity* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its
20 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation in
21 the Philippines.

Approved,