



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 5693

BY REPRESENTATIVES MASTURA, HATAMAN, DIMAPORO (M.K.), DELOS SANTOS, BALINDONG, DIMAPORO (S.A.), ADIONG, PAGLAS, SAKALURAN, TAN-TAMBUT, TAN (S.), SALI, ABALOS, ROBES, ONGCHUAN, REVILLA (R.J.), ZAMORA (M.C.), RIVERA, ATAYDE, ROMUALDO, CRUZ (A.), FLORES, RECTO, CARI, VARGAS, TANJUATCO, SUAREZ, VILLARICA, LAZATIN AND DALIPE, PER COMMITTEE REPORT No. 95

AN ACT DECLARING THE FIRST DAY OF FEBRUARY OF EVERY YEAR AS NATIONAL HIJAB DAY AND PROMOTING AN UNDERSTANDING OF THE MUSLIM TRADITION OF WEARING A HIJAB

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

- 1 SECTION 1. *National Hijab Day*. – The first day of February of every year is hereby
2 declared as “National *Hijab Day*.”
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- 4 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy*. – The State recognizes the role of women in nation-
5 building, and shall ensure the fundamental equality of women and men before the
6 law. The free exercise and enjoyment of religious profession and worship,
7 without discrimination and or preference, shall be forever allowed.
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- 9 SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms*. – As used in this Act:
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- 11 (a) *Hijab* refers to a veil that covers the head and chest, which is particularly
12 worn by a Muslim female beyond the age of puberty in the presence of
13 adult males outside of their immediate family. It may further refer to any

1 head, face, or body covering worn by Muslim women that conforms to a
2 certain standard of modesty.

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4 (b) *Hijabi* refers to a Muslim woman wearing the *hijab*.

5 SEC. 4. *Objectives*. –
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- 7 (a) To encourage Muslim and non-Muslim women to wear the *hijab* and
8 experience the virtue in wearing it;
9 (b) To remove the misconception of wearing the *hijab* as a symbol of
10 oppression, terrorism and lack of freedom;
11 (c) To stop discrimination against Muslim *hijabi*;
12 (d) To protect the freedom of religion and the right of Muslim women to
13 practice their religion;
14 (e) To promote and deepen understanding amongst non-Muslims the value of
15 wearing a hijab as an act of modesty and dignity of Muslim women;
16 (f) To promote appreciation for diversity in expression of oneself and one's
17 faith and religion; and
18 (g) To promote tolerance and acceptance of other lifestyles amongst the
19 citizenry.
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21 SEC. 5. *Awareness Program*. – The National *Hijab* Day shall be observed on every
22 first day of February to showcase *hijabis*' rights and the Muslim tradition of
23 wearing a *hijab*. Muslim and non-Muslim women shall be encouraged to don the
24 *hijab* on this day.
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26 Government institutions, schools, and the private sector shall be
27 encouraged to observe this event in a manner that promotes understanding and
28 awareness among its employees and students of the objective of the campaign.
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30 SEC. 6. *Implementing Agency*. – The National Commission on Muslim Filipinos
31 (NCMF) is hereby mandated as the lead agency in promoting and raising
32 consciousness about the practice of wearing a *hijab*. It shall conduct activities that
33 shall aim to deepen understanding of the *hijab* as a lifestyle choice amongst
34 Muslim women. To this end, it may conduct fora, information dissemination
35 campaigns and other educational drive to effectively meet the objectives of this
36 Act.
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38 SEC. 7. *Effectivity*. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
39 in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,