

23 JUN 27 P 4 :43

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

SENATE
S. No. 2288

Introduced by Senator MARK A. VILLAR

AN ACT
MANDATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MUSLIM PRAYER ROOMS IN ALL
PUBLIC OFFICES AND ESTABLISHMENTS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article III, Section 5 of the 1987 Constitution guarantees the free exercise and enjoyment of religious profession, without discrimination or preference.

Filipinos are known for their strong religious faith, and roughly around 5% of the population are Muslims.

The Islamic faith mandates our Muslim brothers and sisters to pray five times each day. As such, it is imperative for the free exercise of their Islamic faith that prayer rooms be made available where they can perform their prayer in a quiet, dry, and clean place.

In line with the policy of the State to promote and uphold the freedom of religion, this bill seeks to provide adequate spaces for Muslim employees and visitors to fulfill their religious duties in all public offices and establishments nationwide.

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



MARK A. VILLAR

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

1 Section 1. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is declared a policy of the State to promote
2 and uphold the religious rights of its citizenry. The State recognizes the importance of
3 providing adequate spaces for Muslim employees and visitors to fulfill their religious
4 duties in all public offices and establishments nationwide.

5 Sec. 2. *Muslim Prayer Rooms.* – All public offices and establishments nationwide
6 shall designate and set up at least one (1) separate Muslim prayer room within their
7 respective premises. The provision and maintenance of Muslim prayer rooms are the
8 responsibility of the public offices and establishments.

9 Sec. 3. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The National Commission on
10 Muslim Filipinos, in coordination with the other pertinent government agencies, shall
11 promulgate rules and regulations necessary for the implementation of this Act within
12 ninety (90) days from its effectivity.

13 Sec. 4. *Separability Clause.* – Any portion or provisions of this Act that may be
14 declared unconstitutional or invalid and shall not have the effect of nullifying other
15 portions or provisions hereof as long as such remaining portions or provisions can still
16 subsist and be given effect in their entirety.

1 *Sec. 5. Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders,
2 memoranda, circulars, and other issuances, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent
3 with the Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

4 *Sec. 6. Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall be take effect fifteen (15) days after
5 its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,