



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Constitution Hills, Batasan Complex, Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3666

Introduced by **ALFELITO M. BASCUG**, Representative,
1ST Legislative District of Agusan del Sur.

**“AN ACT DECLARING 26th OF JUNE OF EVERY YEAR AS A
SPECIAL WORKING HOLIDAY IN THE COUNTRY IN CELEBRATION
OF LGBTQ+ EQUALITY DAY”**

Explanatory Note

The constant struggle of every person for significance, dignity and self-preservation is a manifestation of an everyday challenge towards the pursuit of eliminating the facets of inequalities in the form of violence, exclusion, and discrimination. In the same vein, the struggle for recognition of the rights of the LGBTQ+ community in our country is in every corner painted with controversy. In our society where every inch of legality has a corresponding touch of morality, legislations of this kind finds captive in the hands of condemnatory public opinion to which these rights remain unheeded.

The continuing fight of the LGBTQ+ community in our country for acceptance and equality can be traced as early as in the 1990's, particularly on June 26, 1994 which marked the first Pride March in the Philippines and in all of Asia. Such significant date is also in memorial of a neighboring date, June 28, 1969, when the *Stonewall Uprising* in the United States sparked controversy which thereafter confined gay

liberation movement and modern fight for LGBT rights as recognized among nations today. The Pride March is a demonstration of freedom against injustice and oppression as well as the celebration of rights of every person regardless of gender identity and sexual orientation.

This year is a timely occasion to commemorate such activity being on its 25th year. On its silver year, this legislation seeks to launch and institutionalize LGBTQ+ in our country by giving them a special day to celebrate their significance, human rights, and the very right which springs from their existence as a person. This aims to promote acceptance among every individual on their choices of their gender and preferences.

While there are various related legislations which are of the same footing of this bill striving recognition at hand, these enactments cannot hold water if everyone just drown themselves in the ocean of hesitations. This bill seeks to put such right in place and not somewhere over that rainbow. That upon realization of this action, this will pave the way for everybody to find that pot of gold in accepting every human being without prejudice to their choices.

"The preservation of human rights is the supreme right above all".

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


ALFELITO M. BASCUG



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

SECTION 1. Title. – This Act shall be known as the “**LGBTQ+
EQUALITY DAY ACT OF 2019**”.

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. The State values the dignity of every human person and guarantees full respect for human rights as enshrined in Sec. 11, Article II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution. Further, Sec. 1, Article XIII of the same provides that the Congress shall give highest priority to the enactment of measures that protect and enhance the right of all people to human dignity.

Other than valuing such rights, the State also recognizes the fundamental right of every person, regardless of sex, age, class, status, ethnicity, color, disability, religious and political beliefs, sexual orientation or gender identity, to be free from any form of discrimination. It shall

therefore intensify its efforts to fulfill its duties under international and domestic laws to respect, protect and fulfill the rights and dignity of every individual.

SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.*

- a. LGBTQ+-** An acronym which stands for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer and all other communities;
- b. L-** *stands for "Lesbian"*; a lesbian is a female homosexual; a female who experiences romantic love or sexual attraction to other females;
- c. G-** *stands for "Gay"*, is a term that primarily refers to a homosexual person or the trait of being homosexual;
- d. B-** *stands for "Bisexual"*; is romantic attraction, sexual attraction or sexual behaviour toward both males and females, or romantic or sexual attraction to people of any sex or gender identity;
- e. T-** *stands for "Transgender"*; is an umbrella term for people whose gender identity differs from what is typically associated with the sex they were assigned at birth;
- f. Q-** *stands for "Queer" or "Questioning"*,

Queer is a term for sexual and gender minorities that are not heterosexual or cisgender;

Questioning is a term that describes someone who is "questioning" his or her sexual orientation;

- g. +-, and "+" signifies for others who are yet unable to identify themselves among others. This also represents all of the communities.

SECTION 4. Purpose. June 26th of every year is hereby declared as LGBTQ+ Equality Day in commemoration of the first Pride March in the Philippines in 1994. It marked the first LGBT mass action in all of Asia for the continuing fight of the LGBT community for acceptance and equality.

In view hereof, June 26th of every year shall be declared as a special working holiday in the entire country.

SECTION 5. Freedom Activity. Organized and unorganized LGBTQ+ groups, women's sector groups and other groups who may want to participate may freely organize lawful activities such as fun run, rallies, concerts, and establishment of booths and others, subject to granting of necessary permits and regulations by concerned agencies or Local Government Units.

SECTION 6. Separability Clause. - If any provision of this Act or the application of such provision to any person or circumstance is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or the application of such provision to other person or circumstance shall not be affected by such declaration.

SECTION 7. Repealing Clause. -All laws, decrees, letters of instructions, executive orders and rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof in consistent or in conflict with any provision of this Act.

SECTION 8. Effectivity Clause. -This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,