

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS  
Second Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 3548**



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Introduced by **HON. RENE L. RELAMPAGOS**  
First District, Bohol

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### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill seeks to declare September 8 of every year as a Special Non-Working Day in the Municipality of Loon, province of Bohol, in celebration of the annual Sidlakasilak Festival otherwise known as the "Festival of Lights" which coincides with the Feast of Our Lady of Light.

Sidlakasilak Festival, a week-long festival of lights launched in the year 2000, culminates every 8<sup>th</sup> of September. The name "SidlaKasilak" was derived from the vernacular word "Sidlak" or light, which has multifarious meanings, like hope, inspiration, enlightenment, triumph, success, deliverance, among others, which also reflects the qualities of Boholanos who were able to withstand the test of time and, in particular, survived the devastation caused by the 2013 earthquake.

Sidlakasilak has become the most anticipated annual event among Loonanons and tourists alike, here and abroad. It aims to showcase Loon's rich cultural heritage and promote local tourism through socio-cultural programs; exhibits on arts, photographs, handicrafts, and other local products; talent competition; homecoming and reunions and competitions that involve lights, such as street dancing and other performances, lighting of houses and streets. In the past 15 years, this festival has seen to enhance active participation of the different sectors of society and strengthen sentimental bond among Loonanons.

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

  
**RENE LOPEZ RELAMPAGOS**

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**“AN ACT DECLARING SEPTEMBER 8 OF EVERY YEAR AS A SPECIAL  
NON-WORKING HOLIDAY, IN CELEBRATION OF SIDLAKASILAK  
FESTIVAL”**

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

**SECTION 1.** Short Title. — This Act shall be known as the “DECLARING  
SIDLAKASILAK FESTIVAL AS NON-WORKING DAY”

**SECTION 2.** Special Non-Working Day. — September 8 of every year is hereby  
declared as a non-working day in celebration of Sidlakasilak Festival or the Festival of  
Lights in the Municipality of Loon, Province of Bohol.

**SECTION 3.** Executive Committee. — To ensure the meaningful observance of  
said festival, as herein declared, the Local Chief Executive shall organize a SidlaKasilak  
Executive Committee to be composed of, but not limited to, the following:

- a. Municipal Mayor as chairperson;
- b. Municipal Vice Mayor;
- c. Representative of the local parish church;
- d. Representative of each administrative district of the LGU;
- e. Representatives of public and private schools;
- f. Representatives of the different sectors, e.g. youth, women, business, POs, NGOs,  
and others;
- g. Members of the Municipal Tourism Council; and
- h. Members of the Municipal Council for Cultural Heritage and Arts.

The members of the Committee shall be assigned duties and responsibilities  
based on their capabilities. They shall also organize a secretariat from among  
themselves.

**SECTION 4.** Program/Activities. – The Sidlakasilak or Festival of Lights shall showcase, among others, socio-cultural programs like the practice of celebrating “Paghiusadya Year” or grand homecoming of all Loonanons every fifth year of the festival. This will instill and enrich cultural awareness and pride of place among Loonanons, and promote the local tourism industry. It may feature any of, but not limited to, the following events:

- a. Competitions that involve lights, such as street dancing and other performances, lighting of houses and streets, and others;
- b. Exhibits on arts, photographs, food, handicrafts and other products of local producers and artists;
- c. Personality and talent showcase or competitions;
- d. Homecoming and reunions of alumni, clans and familites; and
- e. Other activities that may be proposed by the Sidlakasilak Executive Committee.

**SECTION 5.** Separability Clause. If any provisions of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions hereof.

**SECTION 6.** Effectivity. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,