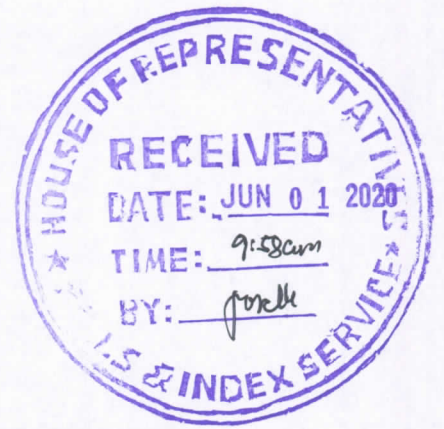




Eighteenth Congress  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6891



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Introduced by  
**REPRESENTATIVE LOREN B. LEGARDA**

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**AN ACT**  
**STRENGTHENING THE CONSERVATION AND PROTECTION OF**  
**NATIONAL CULTURAL HERITAGE THROUGH ENHANCED CULTURAL**  
**HERITAGE EDUCATION PROGRAMS AND CULTURAL MAPPING,**  
**AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10066 OR THE**  
**NATIONAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ACT OF 2009**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Our culture is our story as a nation. It is the narrative that binds Filipinos regardless of ethnicity, social class, or educational background into a common chronicle of tradition, trials, and triumph.

The UNESCO considers cultural mapping as a vital tool and technique in providing society an overall framework in the preservation of its cultural heritage, either tangible or intangible. The documentation of these cultural elements covers a wide range of areas--built heritage such as architecture, tangible heritage such as traditional dwellings, intangible heritage such as indigenous skills, and natural heritage. The fundamental goal of cultural mapping is to educate and help the nation visualize its rich heritage while allowing for reflection of what it stands to lose as a result of its collective apathy.

To further strengthen heritage conservation in the country, this bill seeks to amend Republic Act No. 10066 to mandate local government units (LGUs) to conduct a cultural heritage mapping of their areas for both tangible and intangible and natural and built heritage.

For the above-cited reasons, the passage of this bill is urgently sought.

  
**LOREN LEGARDA**



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

**SECTION 1.** Section 3 of R.A. No. 10066 is hereby amended to read as follows:

**"Section 3. Definition of Terms.** - For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

(a) "Adaptive reuse" shall refer to the utilization of buildings, other built-structures and sites of value for purposes other than that for which they were intended originally, in order to conserve the site, their engineering integrity and authenticity of design.

(b) "Anthropological area" shall refer to any place where studies of specific ethno-linguistic groups are undertaken, the properties of which are of value to our cultural heritage.

(c) "Antique" shall refer to a cultural property found locally which is one hundred (100) years in age, more or less, the production of which has ceased.



(d) "Archaeological area" shall refer to any place, whether above or underground, underwater or at sea level, containing fossils, artifacts and other cultural, geological, botanical, zoological materials which depict and document culturally relevant paleontological, prehistoric and/or historic events.

(e) "Archives" shall refer to public and private records in any format which have been selected for permanent preservation because of their evidential, historical informational value; otherwise known as archival materials collections or archival holdings; the place (building/room/storage area) where archival materials are kept and preserved; and an organization or agency or part thereof whose main responsibility is to appraise, arrange, describe, conserve, promote and make archival materials available for reference and research, also known as archival agency

(f) "Built heritage/**TANGIBLE HERITAGE**" shall refer to architectural and engineering structures such as, but not limited to, bridges, government buildings, houses of ancestry, traditional dwellings, quartels, train stations, lighthouses, small ports, educational, technological and industrial complexes, and their settings, and landscapes with notable historical and cultural significance. **PROTECTION OF THESE STRUCTURES SHALL ALSO TAKE INTO CONSIDERATION THE MAINTENANCE OF THE INTEGRITY OF ITS VISUAL CORRIDOR AND/OR LINE OF SIGHT.**

(g) "Collector" shall refer to any person who or institution that acquires cultural property for purposes other than sale.

(h) "Commission" shall refer to the National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA).

(i) "Conservation" shall refer to all the processes and measures of maintaining the cultural significance of a cultural property including, but not limited to, preservation, restoration, reconstruction, protection, adaptation or any combination thereof.

(j) "Cultural agencies" shall refer to the following national government agencies with their specific areas of responsibility: National Museum (cultural property); the National Library (books); National Historical Institute (Philippine history); National Archives (documents); Cultural Center of the Philippines (culture and the arts); and Komisyon sa Wikang Filipino (language).

(k) "Cultural education" shall refer to the teaching and learning of cultural concepts and processes.

(l) "Cultural heritage" shall refer to the totality of cultural property preserved and developed through time and passed on to posterity.

**(M) "CULTURAL HERITAGE MAPPING" SHALL REFER TO THE APPROACH USED TO IDENTIFY, RECORD, AND USE CULTURAL RESOURCES AND ACTIVITIES FOR BUILDING COMMUNITIES. IT IS A SET OF ACTIVITIES AND PROCESSES FOR EXPLORING, DISCOVERING, DOCUMENTING, EXAMINING, ANALYZING, INTERPRETING, PRESENTING AND SHARING INFORMATION RELATED TO PEOPLE, COMMUNITIES, SOCIETIES, PLACES AND THE MATERIAL PRODUCTS AND PRACTICES ASSOCIATED WITH THE PEOPLE AND PLACES.**

[(m)] **(N)** "Cultural heritage worker" shall refer to an individual undertaking cultural heritage work.

[(n)] **(O)** "Cultural institution" shall refer to entities engaged primarily in cultural work.

[(o)] **(P)** "Cultural property" shall refer to all products of human creativity by which a people and a nation reveal their identity, including churches, mosques and other places of religious worship, schools and natural history specimens and sites, whether public or privately-owned, movable or immovable, and tangible or intangible.

[(p)] **(Q)** "Dealers" shall refer to natural or juridical persons who acquire cultural property for the purpose of engaging in the acquisition and disposition of the same.

[(q)] **(R)** "Heritage zone" shall refer to historical, anthropological, archaeological, artistic geographical areas and settings that are culturally significant to the country, as declared by the National Museum and/or the National Historical Institute.

[(r)] **(S)** "History" shall refer to a written record of past events relating to Philippine history.

[(s)] **(T)** "Historical landmarks" shall refer to sites or structures that are associated with events or achievements significant to Philippine history as declared by the National Historical Institute.



[(t)] **(U)** "Historical monuments" shall refer to structures that honor illustrious persons or commemorate events of historical value as declared by the National Historical Institute.

[(u)] **(V)** "Historical shrines" shall refer to historical sites or structures hallowed and revered for their history or association as declared by the National Historical Institute.

[(v)] **(W)** "Historical street name" shall refer to a street name which has been in existence for at least fifty (50) years and over time has been considered historic.

[(w)] **(X)** "Important cultural property" shall refer to a cultural property having exceptional cultural, artistic and historical significance to the Philippines, as shall be determined by the National Museum and/or National Historical Institute.

[(x)] **(Y)** "Intangible cultural heritage" shall refer to the practices, representations, expressions, knowledge and skills, as well as the instruments, objects and artifacts associated therewith, that communities, groups and individuals recognize as part of their cultural heritage, such as: (1) oral traditions, languages and expressions; (2) performing arts; (3) social practices, rituals and festive events; (4) knowledge and practices concerning nature and the universe; and (5) traditional craftsmanship.

[(y)] **(Z)** "Intangible cultural property" shall refer to the peoples' learned processes along with the knowledge, skills and creativity that inform and are developed by them, the products they create and the resources, spaces and other aspects of social and natural context necessary for their sustainability.

[(z)] **(AA)** "Library" shall refer to an institution where the collection of books, manuscripts, computerized information and other materials are organized to provide physical, bibliographic and/or intellectual access to the public, with a librarian that is trained to provide services and programs related to the information needs of its clientele.

[(aa)] **(BB)** "Museum" shall refer to a permanent institution that researches, acquires, conserves, communicates and exhibits the material evidence of humans and their environment for purposes of education or leisure.

[(bb)] **(CC)** "National cultural treasure" shall refer to a unique cultural property found locally, possessing outstanding historical,

cultural, artistic and/or scientific value which is highly significant and important to the country and nation, and officially declared as such by pertinent cultural agency.

[(cc)] **(DD)** "Nationally significant" shall refer to historical, aesthetic, scientific, technical, social and/or spiritual values that unify the nation by a deep sense of pride in their various yet common identities, cultural heritage and national patrimony.

**(EE) "NATURAL HERITAGE" SHALL REFER TO THE FLORA AND FAUNA, THE NATURAL BIOLOGICAL AND PHYSICAL COMPONENTS OF THE ENVIRONMENT AND OTHER RELATED ECOSYSTEMS AND BIODIVERSITY, WHETHER TERRESTRIAL, WETLAND OR MARINE.**

[(dd)] **(FF)** "Natural property of cultural significance" shall refer to areas possessing outstanding ecosystem with flora and fauna of national scientific importance under the National Integrated Protected Areas System.

[(ee)] **(GG)** "NCCA Portal Cultural Databank" refers to the specific domain in the Commission's intranet for cultural information that is accessed only internally with control and confidentiality. It includes the registry of national cultural property

[(ff)] **(HH)** "Prehistory" shall refer to the period of human history before the introduction of the forms of writing.

[(gg)] **(II)** "Registry" shall refer to the Philippine Registry of Cultural Property which is the registry of all cultural property of the country deemed of significant importance to our cultural heritage.

[(hh)] **(JJ)** "Restoration" shall refer to the action taken or the technical intervention to correct deterioration and alterations.

[(ii)] **(KK)** "Tangible cultural property" shall refer to a cultural property with historical, archival, anthropological, archaeological, artistic and architectural value, and with exceptional or traditional production, whether of Philippine origin or not, including antiques and natural history specimens with significant value."



**SECTION 2.** A new Section 14 on Republic Act 10066 is hereby inserted to read as follows:

**ARTICLE V  
CULTURAL MAPPING**

**SECTION 14. CULTURAL MAPPING BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS. – LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS ARE HEREBY MANDATED TO CONDUCT A COMPREHENSIVE CULTURAL HERITAGE MAPPING OF THEIR AREAS, INCLUDING TANGIBLE AND INTANGIBLE HERITAGE AND NATURAL AND BUILT HERITAGE STRUCTURES. THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS SHALL MOBILIZE AND PARTNER WITH CONCERNED AGENCIES TO ENSURE PROMPT AND EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT. ALL FINDINGS AND OUTPUTS SHALL BE SUBMITTED AND REGISTERED IN THE PHILIPPINE REGISTRY OF CULTURAL PROPERTY.**

**APART FROM CULTURAL AGENCIES, LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS ARE ALSO ENJOINED TO WORK WITH THE FOLLOWING AGENCIES FOR THE CONDUCT OF CULTURAL MAPPING:**

- (i) COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION (CHED) FOR INSTITUTING CULTURAL AWARENESS IN STATE UNIVERSITIES AND COLLEGES;**
- (ii) DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE (DA) FOR THE INVENTORY OF NATURAL FIBER IN THE COUNTRY;**
- (iii) DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION (DEPED) FOR INSTITUTING CULTURAL AWARENESS IN BASIC EDUCATION;**
- (iv) DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES (DENR) FOR THE INVENTORY OF NATURAL PARKS, BIODIVERSITY AND ENDEMICITY;**
- (v) DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS (DPWH) FOR ITS PROGRAMS ON HERITAGE ZONES AND SITES AND PLACES OF SIGNIFICANCE;**
- (vi) DEPARTMENT OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY (DOST) FOR ITS INVENTORY ON NATURAL SOURCES OF DYES AND OTHER PERTINENT RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT FOR THE TEXTILE INDUSTRY SECTOR IN THE COUNTRY;**
- (vii) DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM (DOT) FOR THEIR EXISTING TOURISM PLANS FOR DECLARED NATIONAL AND WORLD HERITAGE SITES.**

The succeeding sections shall be renumbered accordingly.

**SECTION 4.** Section 39 of R.A. No. 10066 is hereby amended to read as follows:

**“Section 39. Cultural Heritage Education Programs.** – Within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Education, the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority and the Commission on Higher Education, in consultation with the Commission, shall set forth in its teaching programs nationwide the following cultural heritage education programs with emphasis at the provincial, city and municipal levels:

- (a) Protection, conservation and preservation of cultural heritage properties;
- (b) Instructional materials in print, film and broadcast media on the cultural and historical significance of cultural properties;  
**[and]**
- (c) **INDIGENOUS KNOWLEDGE SYSTEMS, SKILLS AND PRACTICES (IKSSP) THROUGH THE APPROPRIATE “SCHOOLS OF LIVING TRADITIONS (SLTS)” MODELS; AND**
- (d) Visitation, public accessibility and information dissemination on designated local cultural properties.”

**SECTION. 5. Separability Clause.** - Any portion or provision of this Act that may be declared unconstitutional shall not have the effect of nullifying other portions or provisions hereof as long as such remaining provisions can still subsist and be given effect.

**SECTION 6. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, executive orders, presidential decrees, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with any provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 7. Effectivity Clause.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,