



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

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS  
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6312



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Introduced by the Honorable Representatives ALFREDO A. GARBIN, JR.,  
ANICETO "JOHN" D. BERTIZ III, ORESTES T. SALON

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#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines remains the bastion of Christianity in Asia and despite the various denominations of the Christian faith in our country, it has adhered to the teachings of the Holy Scriptures, the Bible. The Holy Bible (Old and New Testaments) is accepted as the inspired, infallible and revealed word of the Almighty God.

The Holy Bible tells us in the Book of Leviticus, Chapter 23 to celebrate the Feasts of the Lord. These Feasts are not Jewish Feasts, but as clearly stated in the Scriptures, they are set apart as the Lord's Feasts, His appointed times. The Almighty God called His Feasts, holy convocations which are to be observed in all generations. These Feasts are: 1) Feast of the Passover, 2) Feast of Unleavened Bread, 3) Feast of First Fruits or Resurrection, 4) Feast of Pentecost, 5) Feast of Trumpets, 6) Feast of Atonement, and 7) Feast of Tabernacles.

These appointed times were designed by the Almighty God as a way of making His redemptive plan known to mankind. Each of these holy convocations conveys a profound message pointing to the death, burial, resurrection and the second coming of our Lord Jesus, our Messiah.

Our nation is already observing the first three Feasts namely, Passover, Unleavened Bread and First Fruits or Resurrection during the Lenten Season although the date of celebration does not exactly coincide with the date these Feasts are celebrated on the Biblical calendar. This bill seeks to align the celebration of these first three Feasts with the date they occurred in the Bible. As all of these Feasts are ordained in the Holy Scriptures, the recognition of the remaining four Feasts, namely: Feast of Pentecost; Feast of Trumpets; Feast of Atonement; and the Feast of Tabernacles as national holiday would be in complete reverence and obedience to the words of our Almighty God.

The Feast of Pentecost commemorates the giving of the Ten Commandments at Mt. Sinai (Exodus 24) and the day of the outpouring of the Holy Spirit to the believers of the Messiah in the Book of Acts Chapter 2;

The Feast of Trumpets can be found in the Book of Leviticus, 23:24 where the blowing of the trumpets was ordained to commemorate the creation of the universe, the earth and of all mankind by the Almighty God as the King and Creator.

The Feast of Atonement is a national day of repentance that is observed thru confession of sins, fasting and prayer (Leviticus 23:26); and

The Feast of Tabernacles celebrates God's faithfulness and compassion for His people. It is observed by building a tent or sukkah, a reminder of God's provision and care, a symbol that we are temporary dwellers here on earth (Leviticus 23:42);

The Almighty God promises blessings to those who are careful to observe His commandments and the observance of these Feasts is a humble expression of our obedience and submission to the will of our Almighty God which will strengthen our faith in Him.

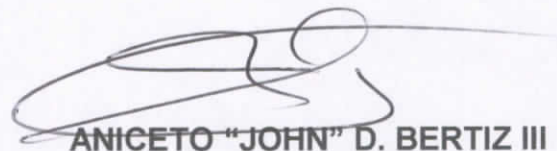
The celebration of these Feasts shall be in accordance with the Biblical calendar as follows: Feast of Passover on the 14<sup>th</sup> day of the First Month; the Feast of Unleavened Bread on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> days of the First Month; Feast of First Fruits on the 16<sup>th</sup> day of the First Month; Feast of Pentecost on the 6<sup>th</sup> day of the Third month; Feast of Trumpets on the 1<sup>st</sup> day of the Seventh month; Feast of Atonement on the 10<sup>th</sup> day of the Seventh month; and the Feast of Tabernacles on the 15<sup>th</sup> and 22<sup>nd</sup> days of the Seventh month of the Biblical calendar.

This bill also seeks to enhance our awareness of the Judeo-Christian contribution in national development.

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



**ALFREDO A. GARBIN, JR.**



**ANICETO "JOHN" D. BERTIZ III**



**ORESTES T. SALON**



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**Introduced by the Honorable Representatives ALFREDO A. GARBIN, JR.,  
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**AN ACT DECLARING THE FEASTS OF THE LORD AS SPECIAL NON-WORKING  
HOLIDAYS IN RECOGNITION OF THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF JUDEO CHRISTIAN  
VALUES IN NATIONAL DEVELOPMENT**

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

SECTION 1. The Biblical Feasts of the Lord are hereby declared special non-working holidays in recognition of the Judeo-Christian values in national development. These Biblical Feasts are designed by the Almighty God as a way of making His redemptive plan known to mankind to inspire those who believe in Him to value human life, live a righteous life with love of God and one's neighbor, respect for parents, care for less fortunate, observance of rule of law and fair play as well as accountability and integrity which are essentials in good governance.

The celebrations of the Biblical Feasts of the Lord shall be determined in accordance with the Jewish Calendar and their corresponding date in the Gregorian calendar.

SEC. 2. The implementation of this Act shall be under the supervision of the Office of the President's Task Force on Interreligious and Intercultural Concerns and shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations pursuant to the provisions of this Act.

SEC.3. Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rules and regulation, contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,