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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)

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SENATE

S. B. NO. 3479

RECEIVED)


INTRODUCED BY HONORABLE EDGARDO J. ANGARA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Time is a vital component of our social, legal, political and economic activities. By synchronizing the official watches and clocks in the country, Filipinos can all sing the national anthem at the same time, welcome the new year in unison; blend time-sensitive chemical mixtures like medicines and food ingredients; synchronize security locks and other devices; run air, land and sea transportation lines; and to develop a culture of punctuality and practice wise spending of time to be more productive at home, school and the workplace.

The bill then proposes for a national official time—the Philippine Standard Time (PST)—in all of the country’s official sources; and provide for funds to install, operate and maintain synchronized time devices displayed in key public places. Likewise it aims to institutionalize the “*National Time Consciousness Week*.”

Early passage of this Bill is urged.


EDGARDO J. ANGARA
Senator

SENATE

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S. B. NO. 3479

Introduced by SENATOR EDGARDO J. ANGARA

AN ACT
TO SET THE PHILIPPINE STANDARD TIME (PST) IN ALL OFFICIAL SOURCES
THROUGHOUT THE COUNTRY, TO PROVIDE FUNDS FOR THE INSTALLATION,
OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF SYNCHRONIZED TIME DEVICES TO BE
DISPLAYED IN KEY PUBLIC PLACES AND TO DECLARE THE FIRST WEEK OF
EVERY YEAR AS NATIONAL TIME CONSCIOUSNESS WEEK.

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

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as “*The Philippine Standard Time*
2 *(PST) Act of 2009.*”

3 SEC. 2. *Display of the Philippine Standard Time.* – All national and local government
4 offices shall display the Philippine Standard Time (PST) on their official time devices, including
5 Bundy clocks, in accordance with the official time being provided by the Philippine
6 Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) using its
7 network time protocol. All of these offices shall coordinate, at least once a month, with the
8 PAGASA to synchronize their official timepieces and devices.

9 SEC. 3. *Monitoring, Maintenance and Dissemination of the PST.* – The PAGASA’s
10 Time Service Unit, in coordination with the Department of Science and Technology (DOST)
11 shall be tasked to monitor, maintain and disseminate the PST throughout the country. The
12 PAGASA shall operate and maintain a timekeeping system to perform this function and shall
13 endeavor to install and maintain sufficiently large and prominently displayed synchronized time
14 devices in all their field stations and in key public places.

15 SEC. 4. *Procurement of Equipment for the Automatic Dissemination of Time.* – The
16 amount of Sixty Million Pesos (P60,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated for the acquisition of six
17 (6) units of equipment for automatic dissemination of time with Global Positioning System

1 (GPS). The Department of Science and Technology (DOST) shall be the procurement overseer
2 of these equipment.

3 **SEC. 5. *General Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary for the implementation of this
4 Act shall be included in the appropriation of PAGASA under the DOST under the General
5 Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for the upgrading and/or
6 maintenance of the timekeeping system shall be included in the annual budget of the DOST and
7 PAGASA.

8 **SEC. 6. *Implementing Guidelines.*** – The PAGASA, in coordination with DOST, NTC,
9 DOTC, DILG, DND and DOH, shall promulgate the necessary guidelines for the effective
10 implementation of the calibration and synchronization of the time-keeping devices within fifteen
11 (15) days from the effectivity of this Act.

12 **SEC. 7. *Participation of Media.*** – The National Telecommunications Commission
13 (NTC) shall require the participation of all government and private television and radio stations
14 in order to ensure that such synchronization can be undertaken even in the most remote parts of
15 the country.

16 **SEC. 8. *Violations.*** – For any violation of the provisions of this Act, the Commissioner
17 of the National Telecommunications Commission or the duly authorized representative may
18 apply to the appropriate Metropolitan Trial Courts, Municipal Trial Courts or Municipal Circuit
19 Trial Courts for the territorial jurisdiction in which such violation occurs for the enforcement of
20 this Act; and such court shall have jurisdiction to enforce obedience thereto by writ of injunction
21 or by other process, mandatory or otherwise, restraining further violations of this Act and
22 enjoining obedience thereto.

23 Owners of private television and radio stations who shall fail to calibrate and synchronize
24 their time devices with PST during their broadcast shall upon conviction, be penalized with a
25 fine of not less than Thirty Thousand Pesos (P30,000.00) but not more than Fifty Thousand
26 Pesos (P50,000.00) and in case of second offense, revocation and cancellation of its franchise to
27 operate.

28 **SEC. 9. *Information Campaign.*** – All national and local government offices, including
29 all schools, public or private, shall conduct a continuing information about the value of time and

1 need for respect for the time of others, in order that the people may realize the imperative of
2 synchronizing the official time.

3 SEC. 10. *Institutionalization of the “National Time Consciousness Week”*. – The
4 “National Time Consciousness Week” shall be institutionalized and celebrated every first week
5 of the year.

6 SEC.11. *Separability Clause*. – If any provision or part of this Act is declared invalid or
7 unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and
8 effect.

9 SEC. 12. *Repealing Clause*. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules
10 and regulations, and issuances, or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this
11 Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

12 SEC. 13. *Effectivity*. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the
13 Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

14 *Approved,*