

[Act No. 1123, April 27, 1904]

AN ACT SO AMENDING SECTIONS TWELVE, ONE HUNDRED AND FORTY-THREE, AND FIVE HUNDRED AND TWELVE OF ACT NUMBERED ONE HUNDRED AND NINETY AS TO DIMINISH THE EXPENSE OF CONDUCTING TRIALS IN COURTS OF FIRST INSTANCE AND OF PROCEEDINGS IN THE SUPREME COURT IN REVIEW OF SUCH TRIALS, AND MAKING CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF ACT NUMBERED ONE HUNDRED AND NINETY APPLICABLE TO CRIMINAL CAUSES, AND PROVIDING AN INEXPENSIVE METHOD OF APPEAL IN CASES OF PAUPERS.

By authority of the United States, be it enacted by the Philippine Commission, that:

SECTION 1. Section twelve of Act Numbered One hundred and ninety, entitled "An Act providing a Code of Procedure in civil actions and special proceedings in the Philippine Islands," is hereby amended so as to read as follows:

"SEC. 12. *Official language.*—The official language of all courts and their records shall be the Spanish language until the first day of January, nineteen hundred and six. After that date English shall be the official language, but the Supreme Court or any Court of First Instance may in its discretion order a duplicate record in the English language made and duly enrolled in any action or proceedings whenever the court shall determine that such duplicate record would promote the public convenience and the interests of the parties: *Provided*, That any party or his counsel may examine or cross-examine witnesses or make an oral argument in English or a native dialect, and the same shall be clearly interpreted into Spanish by a court interpreter whenever the judge shall so require: and the party or his counsel may submit a written or printed pleading or brief in English or a native dialect if at the same time he accompanies it by a correct Spanish translation: *And provided further*, That in cases in which all the parties or counsel stipulate in writing, and the court consents, the proceedings may be conducted in English or in a native dialect only, and in such cases the record of the pleadings, the bills of exceptions, and judgments need not be translated into Spanish: *And provided further*, That when a case, civil or criminal, is so tried in the English language in the trial court, in the event of an appeal the English record shall be used in the Supreme Court, but the briefs shall be accompanied by a translation into the Spanish language."

SEC. 2. Section one hundred and forty-three of said Act Numbered One hundred and ninety is hereby amended by striking out the second paragraph of said section reading as follows__

"Immediately upon the allowance of a bill of exceptions by the judge, it shall be the duty of the clerk to transmit to the clerk of the Supreme Court a certified copy of the bill of exceptions and of all documents which by the bill of exceptions are made a part of it. The cause shall be heard in the Supreme Court upon the certified copy of the bill of exceptions so transmitted" and by inserting' in lieu thereof the following paragraph.