

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

13th Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 785

Introduced by Representative Harlin Cast. Abayon

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is endowed with great scenic beauty, historically significant sites, natural resources and a population whose traditions are attractive to tourists. These assets should be preserved and nurtured, not only appreciated by others, but because they are valued by the country's very own citizens.

Tourism has always played a vital role in the contribution to the country's economy. The pecuniary gains which may be derived through tourist spending, foreign exchange earnings, and employment generation contribute largerly to the stability of any economy.

The national government, for the past years, has encouraged tourism and recreation explicitly in a number of decrees, executive orders and legislative enactments. The development and promotion of tourism however, to a large extent, confined only to the Department of Tourism, which is tasked solely in the formulation of the country's plans, programs and strategies for the tourism industry. While our country is composed of more then 1,700 islands, with more than 70 million Filipinos of diverse ethnic origins, the Department of Tourism needs the proper support in developing the vast potentials of tourism to a level where the country may derive optimum benefits.

There is need, therefore, to lay down integrated ad coordinated policies; plans and strategies down to the Local Government Unit which is essential in order to address the aforementioned problem. Local Government Units, because of their familiarity of their respective parochial character may serve ideal in achieving the national goal towards the fullest development of tourism in the country.

In view thereof, the attached bill seeks to create the position of Tourism Officers in every province, cities, and municipalities.

Hence, approval of the measure is earnestly requested.

HARLIN CAST ABAYON

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AN ACT
CREATING THE POSITION OF TOURISM OFFICER IN EACH PROVINCE, CITY AND MUNICIPALITY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE CERTAIN SECTIONS OF R. A. NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991.

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

SECTION 1. Paragraph (a) of Section 443 of R. A. No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991 is hereby amended to read as follows

"SEC. 443. Officials of the Municipal Government- (a) There shall be in each municipality a municipal mayor, a municipal vice-mayor, sangguniang bayan members, a secretary to the sangguniang bayan, a municipal treasurer, a municipal assessor, a municipal accountant, a municipal budget officer, a municipal planning and development coordinator, a municipal engineer/building official, a municipal health officer, A TOURISM OFFICER< and a municipal civil registrar."

SECTION 2. Paragraph (a) of section 454 of the same Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC 454. Officials of the City Government- (a) There shall be in each city a mayor, a vce-mayor, sangguniang panlungsod members, a secretary to the sangguniang panlunsod, a city treasurer, a city assessor, a city accountant, a city budget officer, a city planning and development coordinator, a city engineer, a city health officer, a city civil registrar, a city administrator, a city legal officer, a city veterinarian, a city social welfare and development officer, **A CITY TOURISM OFFICER**, and a city general services officer."

SECTION 3. Paragraph (a) of Section of the same Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 463. officials of the Provincial Government- (a) There shall be in each province a governor, a vice-governor, members of the sangguniang panlalawigan, a secretary to the sangguniang panlalawigan, a provincial treasurer, a provincial assessor, a provincial accountant, a provincial engineer, a provincial budget officer, a provincial planning and development coordinator, a provincial legal officer, a provincial administrator, a provincial health officer, a provincial social welfare and

development officer, a provincial general services officer, a provincial agriculturists, **A PROVINCIAL TOURISM OFFICER.** and a provincial veterinarian."

SECTION 4. A new article is hereby inserted between Articles thirteen and fourteen to be known as Article thirteen-a, to read as follows:

"ARTICLE THIRTEEN –A-THE TOURISM OFFICER"

"SEC. 43-A. QUALIFICATIONS, POWERS AND DUTIES.- (A) NO PERSON SHALL BE APPOINTED TOURISM OFFICER UNLESS HE IS A CITZEN OF THE PHILIPPINES, A RESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT CONCERNED, OF GOOD MORAL CHARACTER, A HOLDER OF A COLLEGE DEGREE PREFERABLY IN TOURISM OR ANY OTHER RELATED COURSE FROM A RECOGNIZED COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY, AND A FIRDT-GRADE CIVIL SERVICE ELIGIBLE OR ITS EQUIVALENT. HE MUST HAVE ACQUIRED EXPERIENCE IN THE PRACTICE OF TOURISM WORK FOR AT LEAST FIVE(5) YEARS IN THE CASE OF THE PROVINCIAL OR CITY TOURISM OFFICER, AND THREE (3) YEARS IN THE CASE OF THE MUNICIAPL TOURISM OFFICER.

"THE APOINTMENT OF A TOURISM OFICER OS AMNDATORY FOR THE PROVINCIAL AND CITY GOVERNMENTS, AND OPTIONAL FOR MUNICIAPL GOVERNMENT.

"THE TOURISM OFFICER SHALL TAKE CHARGE OF THE OFFICE ON TOURISM SERVICES AND SHALL:

"(1) FORMULATE INTEGRATED TOURISM DEVELOPMENT PALNS AND POLICIES FOR CONSIDERATION OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL;

"(2) CONDUCT CONTINUING STUDIES, RESEARCHES, AND TRAINING PROGRAMS ON TOURISM NECESSARY TO EVOLVE PLANS AND PROGRAMS FOR IMPLEMENTATION;

"(3) MONITOR AND EVLAUTE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE DIFFERENT DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMS, PROJECTS, AND ACTIVITIES OF TOURISM IN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT CONCERNED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE APPROVED DEVELOPMENT PLAN;

"(4) PREPARE COMREHENSIVE PLANS AND OTHER DEVELOPMENT PLANNING DOCUMENTS ON TOURISM FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL

"(5) RECOMMENDED TO THE SANGGUNIANG AND ADVISE THE GOVERNOR OR MAYOR, AS THE CASE MAYBE, ON ALL OTHER MATTES RELATED TO TOURISM DEVELOPMENT SERVICES TO ATTRACT TOURISTS;

"(6) EXERCISE SUCH OTHER POWERS AND PERFORM SUCH OTHER DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS AS MAY BE PRESCRIBED BY LAW OR ORDINANCE."

SECTION 5. All laws, decrees, executive orders and other issuances inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,