HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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BILLS & INDEX DIVISION

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

13th Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1130

Introduced by **Representative Renato J. Unico, Jr.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to provide for the establishment of a railway system from Sipocot, Camarines Sur to Daet, Camarines Norte.

One of the country's foremost concern is the lack of an adequate national transportation system. The province of Camarines Norte has suffered greatly because of such inadequacies. In the late 1990's, when the Quirino Highway opened its lanes for traffic, the province was bypassed by almost all vehicles from Metro Manila to Bicol and therefore created a huge vacuum in its luck-luster economic growth. A few years back, even before Quirino Highway was serviceable, the Philippine Airlines (PAL) and other airline companies permanently terminated their flights from Daet to Metro Manila and vice versa. Hence, at present, the province's trade and commerce with neighboring provinces and cities in Bicol and Southern Tagalog, not to mention cities in the National Capital Region, is in jeopardy.

Since the present administration's thrust is to create a million jobs in the agriculture sector, the enactment of this railway system is earnestly sought. Transport facilities such as the Camarines Norte Railway System will benefit the agriculture sector of the province for the reason that the railway can transport agricultural produce to markets in large amounts, at greater distances, at a minimum cost. Moreover, it will also attract investors to the province strengthening its agro-industrial growth creating more jobs for the people in the locality. The rise in tourism will also be a favorable consequence in the advent of this railway system.

In addition, the establishment of such transport facility would allow greater mobility to the people of Camarines Norte since public utility buses and other present means of transportation are not conducive to the transport of heavy cargo and large number of passengers.

In view of the fact that the railway system will hasten and stimulate development in the countryside, it is imperative, therefore, to pass this Bill at the soonest possible time.

HON. RENATO J. UNICO, Jr.
Representative
Lone District, Camarines Norte

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A RAILWAY SYSTEM FROM SIPOCOT, CAMARINES SUR TO DAET, CAMARINES NORTE, UNDER THE BUILD-OPERATE-TRANSFER SCHEME.

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

SECTION 1. A railway system connecting the Provinces of Camarines Sur and Camarines Norte shall be established, from the Municipality of Sipocot, Province of Camarines Sur to the Municipality of Daet, Province of Camarines Norte under the Build-Operate-Transfer Scheme.

SECTION 2. The Department of Transportation and Communications, in coordination with the Department of Public Works and Highways, shall undertake a comprehensive study of the Sipocot, Camarines Sur-Camarines Norte Railway, taking into consideration the tourism and eco-zone potential including agro-industrial centers of the area to be serviced by the said railway.

The Department of Public Works and Highways shall conduct investigations on the safety and efficiency of the railway system and undertake land survey for areas to be acquired in the program, giving priority to growth centers of population, trade and commerce.

SECTION 3. The Secretary of Transportation and Communication shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 4. The necessary expenses in the conduct of the comprehensive study and investigations in the safety and efficiency of the Sipocot, Camarines Sur-Camarines Norte Railway system shall be determined by the Department of Public Works and Highways and the Department of Transportation and Communications in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management. The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be appropriated out of any fund in the National Treasury.

Thereafter, such sum as maybe necessary for the operation and maintenance of the railway system, shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 5. This Act shall rake effect upon its approval.

Approved.