

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

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill NO. 2092



Introduced by HON. EDGAR M. CHATTO
1ST DISTRICT, BOHOL

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Facilities and basic services offered by tourist-oriented establishments and workers must meet the minimum acceptable standards set by the Department of Tourism (DOT) as a prerequisite to the issuance of license by the local government units (LGUs). In the process, important statistical data must likewise be made available to the DOT such as room rates, room capacity, number of professional guides and services available to promote the country and attract tourism investments.

Presently, however, while the DOT has provided the standards for the issuance of license to operate various tourist-oriented establishments and for the delivery of basic tourism services, the Philippines has yet to be elevated to a world-class tourist destination.

This bill seeks to create a favorable image of the tourism industry in the country and improve its stature in the international community.

During the 12th Congress, this bill was approved by the House but remained pending in the Senate. This bill is therefore re-filed for the consideration of this Congress.


REP. EDGAR M. CHATTO

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AN ACT REQUIRING CERTAIN TOURISM-ORIENTED ESTABLISHMENTS AND TOURIST WORKERS TO SECURE ACCREDITATION FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM AS A PREREQUISITE TO THE ISSUANCE OF LICENSE OR PERMIT TO OPERATE BY LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS

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

SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.* - It shall hereby be the primary thrust of Government to develop and promote the Philippines as a world-class tourist destination and venue for international conventions. Towards this end, it shall endeavor to create a favorable image of the Philippine tourism industry, thereby strengthening the country's stature in the international community.

SEC. 2. *Standards based on International Quality and Efficiency.* - Tourism-oriented establishments and tourist workers shall, at all times, maintain the minimum standards set forth in the rules and regulations promulgated by the Department of Tourism, based on international levels of quality and efficiency.

SEC. 3. *Accreditation as prerequisite to License to operate Tourism-related Businesses.* - Tourism-oriented establishments and tourist workers, specifically hotels, resorts, tourist inns, motels or motorist hotels, apartels, pension houses, homestays, tour guides tourist transport operators, travel agencies tour operators, and sports and special interest establishments catering basically to tourists, shall hereby secure accreditation from the Department of Tourism as a prerequisite to the issuance of license, permit to operate or conduct of business relative to tourism by the local government units (LGUs).

SEC. 4. *Creation of Accreditation and Monitoring Committee; Composition.* - An Accreditation and Monitoring Committee shall be created in all provinces, cities and municipalities. Said Committee shall be composed of a duly designated official from the Department of Tourism as Chairman; the Provincial, City or Municipal Tourism Office as Vice Chairman; and the Provincial, City or Municipal Engineer or Building Official, the Provincial, City or Municipal Planning and Development coordinator and the Chairman of the local Tourism Council, as members.

SEC. 5. *Functions.* – The Accreditation and Monitoring Committee shall be responsible for the inspection and/or evaluation of tourism-oriented establishment and tourist workers for the purpose of accreditation. It shall, likewise, conduct periodic inspections to ensure that the facilities and services of these establishments and tourist workers are operated and maintained in accordance with the minimum set of standards based on international levels of quality and efficiency.

SEC. 6. *Accreditation Fees.* – Accreditation fees shall be collected from the applicant, the rates of which shall be set by the Accreditation and Monitoring Committee. Said accreditation fees shall accrue to a trust fund in the local government units concerned to be utilized by the LGUs and the Department of Tourism for their tourism development and promotional projects.

SEC. 7. *Formulation of the Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Department of Tourism, in coordination with the local government units and concerned private sector stakeholders, shall formulate the minimum standards and the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act. Likewise, the Department of Tourism shall provide the members of the Accreditation and Monitoring Committee with technical assistance and training on accreditation procedures and standards.

SEC. 8. *Penalties.* – Violation of any provision of this Act, or its Implementing Rules and Regulations, shall constitute a ground for the revocation of non-issuance/renewal of accreditation, and corresponding cancellation of license or permit to operate and closure of the establishment.

SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 10. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect immediately upon its approval.

Approved,