

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2571

INTRODUCED BY **REP. FERJENEL G. BIRON**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

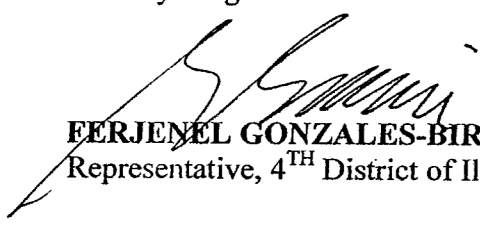
The Calayan Rail or “piding” as it was locally known is a rare bird on the tiny island in the Babuyan island group that lies between Batanes and Luzon. Discovered in May 2004 by a Filipino wildlife biologist, Calayan Rail was believed to be found only in the Philippines. According to international experts at the Birdlife International, this specie had never been recorded before.

It was reported that the residents of Calayan had even caught the bird for food in the past. While this specie is not under immediate threat, its limited distribution made it vulnerable to habitat loss and at risk to human disruption.

According to experts, flightless birds are the most vulnerable. This rare specie then is threatened by extinction. Its conservation and preservation will be an additional measure in maintaining the country’s high biodiversity and the protection of its sanctuary will keep on the sustainability of the country’s natural resources.

This bill is filed with a sense of urgency to declare the Calayan Rail or “piding” as an endangered specie. This will decidedly advance the cause of saving Calayan Rail from extinction and will benefit the whole Filipino nation as well. With its rarity, the State must take valuable steps in protecting and preserving the Calayan Rail as a national treasure.

Hence, the immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


FERJENEL GONZALES-BIRON
Representative, 4TH District of Iloilo

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AN ACT
DECLARING CALAYAN RAIL LOCALLY KNOWN AS "PIDING" AS A
PROTECTED BIRD IN THE PHILIPPINES, PROVIDING FOR THE
PRESERVATION OF THE SAME AND AUTHORIZING THE
APPROPRIATIONS OF FUNDS FOR THE PURPOSE.

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

Section 1. This Act shall be known and cited as the "Calayan Rail Act".

Section 2. It is hereby declared that Calayan Rail locally known as "piding"
shall be a protected bird in the Philippines.

Section 3. To ensure the proper protection, preservation, management of the
Calayan Rail, the killing, hunting, wounding or taking away of the same/or destroying
their habitat, disturbing or taking away their nests or eggs of such bird or the keeping in
captivity of such bird for non-scientific purposes or the destruction of its habitat
identified as the Calayan Rail sanctuaries, in contravention of the rules and regulations
promulgated by the Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources
is hereby prohibited and made subject to penal provision of Section 6 hereon.

The Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall
promulgate rules and regulations for the implementation of this Act within ninety (90)
days from and after the effectivity thereof.

In the preparation of the rules and regulations, the Secretary of the Department of
Environment and natural Resources shall seek the recommendation of the Director of the
Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau.

Section 4. The Director of the Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau shall identify and establish sanctuaries as are necessary to preserve this specie. For this purpose, the Director of Protected Areas and Wildlife Bureau may seek assistance of private associations and foundations for support, financial grant or technical cooperation arrangement as may be necessary to carry out and effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

Section 5. For the expenses in the establishment and maintenance of the sanctuaries, the conduct of studies on natural habitat, food requirements, predator-prey control measures and other ecological factors most conducive to the conservation and management of the Calayan Rail and other requirements for the implementation of this Act, there is hereby authorized to be appropriated the amount of Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php500,000.00) from the national treasury for the first year after the approval of this Act and subsequent appropriations shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

Section 6. Any person violating any provision of this Act shall be punished by a penalty of *prison correccional* or by a fine of not less than Ten Thousand Pesos (Php10,000.00) nor more than Fifty Thousand Pesos (Php50,000.00) or by both such imprisonment and fine at the discretion of the Court. In any subsequent offenses, the court shall impose both imprisonment and the fine. In case of insolvency, the corresponding subsidiary imprisonment shall be suffered.

Section 7. Should any provision of this Act be subsequently declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity or the legality of the other provisions.

Section 8. All other laws, orders, and regulations inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed and amended accordingly.

Section 9. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication to national newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,