

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

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2238

INTRODUCED BY HON. MARCELINO "MARCY" R. TEODORO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Tourism is a significant component of growth and development and could even become, if only handled and administered well, a major source of revenues for the government, creating jobs and opportunities for the people.

The main thrust of the current administration seems to veer towards enhancing and improving on our tourism potentials. In fact, for the past two years, the country has succeeded in reaching the two million mark, which is an indication of success at least in terms of the number of foreign visitors who have visited the country.

Given this, it is important to tap local governments to share in this worthwhile undertaking. This can be done by setting in place the necessary mechanism that shall guide them in their participation in tourism-related programs, particularly those that concern their respective jurisdictions.

The purpose of this bill is to do just that by creating the position of tourism officer in all provinces, first class municipalities and those areas where tourism is considered a major local industry.

Under the same, said tourism officer shall enable local governments to enhance their tourism potentials by taking charge of the following:

- Formulate measures for the consideration of and provide technical support to the governor or mayor, as the case may be, in carrying out measures to ensure effective delivery of basic tourism services and access to tourism facilities; and
- Develop a tourism master plan for the area, in consonance, with the national policies of government, as well as other tourism-related plans and strategies and, upon approval thereof by the governor or mayor, implement the same, particularly those which have to do with tourism administration, to support programs and projects which the sanggunian is empowered to provide for under this code:

The creation and appointment of such tourism officer should greatly facilitate local tourism initiatives, consequently institutionalizing local tourism programs that shall bring forth significant socio-economic development.

Hence, immediate enactment of this measure is earnestly sought.



MARCELINO "MARCY" R. TEODORO
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City of Marikina

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AN ACT
CREATING THE POSITION OF TOURISM OFFICER IN ALL PROVINCES,
FIRST CLASS MUNICIPALITIES AND CITIES, OR MUNICIPALITIES AND
CITIES WHERE TOURISM IS CONSIDERED A MAJOR LOCAL INDUSTRY,
AND DEFINING ITS QUALIFICATIONS, POWERS AND DUTIES, AMENDING
FOR THE PURPOSE CERTAIN SECTIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE

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

SECTION 1. Section 443, Book III, Title Two, Chapter 2 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 443. Officials of the Municipal Government. –

X X X

SECTION 2. Section 2. Section 454, Book III, Title Three, Chapter 2 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Section 454. Officials of the City Government. –

X X X

SECTION 3. Section 463. Book III, Title Four, Chapter 2 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Section 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, x x x a provincial agriculturist, [and] a provincial veterinarian [.], AND A PROVINCIAL TOURISM OFFICER.

SECTION 4. Book III is hereby amended by inserting a new Article under Title Five, herein referred to as Article 21, which shall be read as follows:

ARTICLE 21 – THE TOURISM OFFICER

Section 491. *QUALIFICATIONS* - NO PERSON SHALL BE APPOINTED TOURISM OFFICER UNLESS HE IS A CITIZEN OF THE PHILIPPINES, A RESIDENT OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT CONCERNED, OF

GOOD MORAL CHARACTER, A HOLDER OF A COLLEGE DEGREE WITH SPECIALIZED TRAINING IN TOURISM ADMINISTRATION FROM A RECOGNIZED COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY AND A FIRST GRADE CIVIL SERVICE ELIGIBLE OR ITS EQUIVALENT. HE MUST HAVE ACQUIRED EXPERIENCE IN TOURISM ADMINISTRATION, INCLUDING TOURISM MANAGEMENT, DEVELOPMENT AND CONTROL, OR AT LEAST THREE (3) YEARS IN THE CASE OF THE CITY TOURISM OFFICER OR ONE (1) YEAR IN THE CASE OF THE MUNICIPAL TOURISM OFFICER.

THE APPOINTMENT OF THE TOURISM OFFICER IS MANDATORY FOR CITY AND MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS, PROVIDED, THAT, SAID CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES FALL UNDER THE FIRST CLASS CATEGORY, OR THAT TOURISM IS CONSIDERED AS A MAJOR LOCAL INDUSTRY.

SECTION 492. POWERS AND DUTIES. – THE TOURISM OFFICER SHALL TAKE CHARGE OF THE OFFICE ON TOURISM SERVICES AND SHALL:

(A) FORMULATE MEASURES FOR THE CONSIDERATION AND PROVIDE TECHNICAL SUPPORT TO THE GOVERNOR OR MAYOR, AS THE CASE MAY BE, IN CARRYING OUT MEASURES TO ENSURE EFFECTIVE DELIVERY OF BASIC TOURISM SERVICES AND ACCESS TO TOURISM FACILITIES;

(B) DEVELOP A TOURISM MASTER PLAN FOR THE AREA, IN CONSONANCE, WITH THE NATIONAL POLICIES OF GOVERNMENT, AS WELL AS OTHER TOURISM-RELATED PLANS AND STRATEGIES AND, UPON APPROVAL THEREOF BY THE GOVERNOR OR MAYOR, IMPLEMENT THE SAME, PARTICULARLY THOSE WHICH HAVE TO DO WITH TOURISM ADMINISTRATION, TO SUPPORT PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS WHICH THE SANGGUNIAN IS EMPOWERED TO PROVIDE FOR UNDER THIS CODE:

(C) IN ADDITION TO THE FOREGOING, THE TOURISM OFFICER SHALL:

1.) INITIATE THE SUPPORT PROGRAMS AND PROJECTS THAT WILL DEVELOP, ENHANCE AND PROMOTE TOURISM AS A MAJOR INDUSTRY IN THE AREA;

2.) COORDINATE WITH CONCERNED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS AND THE PRIVATE SECTOR INVOLVED IN TOURISM, ON THE DEVELOPMENT, ENHANCEMENT AND PROMOTION OF TOURISM;

3) ASSIST THE CONCERNED REGIONAL OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM IN THE EVALUATION OF TOURISM-RELATED ESTABLISHMENTS FOR THE ISSUANCE OF LICENSE OR PERMIT TO OPERATE;

4) ASSIST THE CONCERNED REGIONAL OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM IN THE EVALUATION OF TOURISM RELATED ESTABLISHMENTS FOR THE PURPOSE OF ACCREDITATION;

5) RECOMMEND TO THE SANGGUNIAN AND ADVISE THE GOVERNOR OR MAYOR AS THE CASE MAY BE, ON ALL MATTERS RELATIVE TO THE PROMOTION OF TOURISM AND PRESERVATION OF TOURIST ATTRACTIONS AND VALUES OF THE AREA.

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

SECTION 5. All laws, decrees, rules and regulations inconsistent with Act shall be amended or repealed accordingly.

SECTION 6. If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions thereof.

SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in least two (2) newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes earlier.

Approved,