

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 4964

Introduced by **REP. CESAR V. SARMIENTO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

A lighthouse is a tower which aids navigation in the oceans, seas, inland waterways and in some instances, in aerial navigation. Lighthouses are used to mark dangerous coastlines and perilous shoals and reefs and are guides to safe entries to harbors.

The Philippines being an archipelago, has the fifth largest coastline in the world totaling to 36,289 km. The Philippine coastline is very irregular, with numerous bays, gulfs, and islets. Ten of its most heavily populated cities are located along coastal areas. With approximately 300 ports, lighthouses help mariners, navigators and fishermen in safely guiding them in hazardous reefs and coasts.

Also, fishing is one of the basic sources of livelihood for most of our countrymen. Since, most of our coastal areas are typhoons stricken, we need to push through for this bill so that we can help the marginalized fishermen keep sight of the shore especially during bad weathers and turbulent storms.

Studies reveal that regardless of the advancement in technology and the use of satellite-guided positioning devices, mariners still rely on these light stations as visual confirmations of their electronic readings. In the long run, lighthouses can also be a promising tourist destination.

As an archipelago, the progress of the country is heavily dependent on maritime travel. Even in the dawn of land travel and aviation, the water routes continue to be the major highway for travel and commerce in the Philippines. Lighthouses safely guide the vessels that navigate its routes. Hence, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



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**AN ACT ESTABLISHING LIGHTHOUSES IN ALL COASTAL AREAS IN THE PHILIPPINES
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. This shall be known as the "*Philippine Lighthouse Act of 2011.*"

SECTION 2. There shall be established lighthouses in all coastal areas in the Philippines. Priority must be given to coastal areas where there are marginalized fishermen.

SECTION 3. The establishment of such lighthouses shall be determined and undertaken by the Department of Transportation and Communications in cooperation with the Philippine Coast Guard.

SECTION 4. Existing lighthouses that need repair and maintenance shall also be covered by this Act.

SECTION 5. The amount needed to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the DOTC. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued maintenance of the lighthouses shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 6. This act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,