

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



SIXTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. **1559**

Introduced by **HON. IMELDA ROMUALDEZ-MARCOS**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

At present, the northern reaches of the Island of Luzon are accessible by land only through the use of public utility buses and private motor vehicles. However, such a mode is not conducive to the transport of heavy cargo and masses of passengers, as seating and cargo is limited. To an ordinary producer of goods or even to the usual passenger, travel by public utility buses can be expensive and does not allow much leeway for the maximization of costs. As an alternative, the establishment of a railway network would allow for greater mobility to the people of Ilocos Norte. It will hasten progress and development in the countryside as it will stimulate an increase in commercial activities in the area.

In line with the thrust of the government to further intensify the accessibility of means to link more closely each province to the others so as to facilitate commercial transactions, the approval of this bill is earnestly recommended.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Imelda C. Marcos".

IMELDA ROMUALDEZ-MARCOS
Representative
2nd District, Ilocos Norte

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF A RAILWAY SYSTEM FROM LAOAG CITY, ILOCOS NORTE TO PORO, SAN FERNANDO LA UNION, 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 Ilocos Norte and La Union shall be established, from the City of Laoag in the Province of Ilocos Norte to Poro Point, in the Municipality of San Fernando, Province of La Union under the Build-Operate-Transfer scheme.

SECTION 2. The Department of Transportation and Communications, in coordination with the Public Works and Highways, shall undertake a comprehensive study of the Ilocos-La Union Railway, taking into consideration the tourism and Ecozone potential of the said provinces, including agro-industrial centers of the area to be serviced by the said railway.

The Department of Public Works and Highways shall conduct investigation 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 Communications 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 Ilocos Norte-La Union railway

system shall be determined by the Department of Public Works and Highways and 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 not otherwise appropriated. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for the operation and maintenance of the railway system shall be included in the annual General Appropriation Act.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect immediately upon its approval.

Approved.