

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



SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3210

Introduced by Rep. CHRISTOPHER S. CO, and Rep. RODEL M. BATOCABE

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to make the appointment of a tourism officer mandatory in provinces, cities, first class municipalities thus amending the specific provisions in Republic Act No. 7160 Local Government Code.

Since the implementation of the Local Government Code in 1992, the tourism industry of the Philippines, and the local governments where the tourist destinations are located have been competitive and vigorous in the promotion, establishment and expansion of the Philippine tourist destinations.

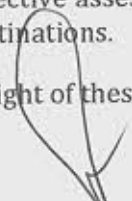
Under the Local Government Code, part of the basic services for municipalities is the provision of tourism facilities and other tourist attractions while in cities and provinces, basic services include tourism development and promotion program. However, despite the mandate to deliver such services, there is no office, officer, or personnel whose primary function is to oversee and implement the delivery of such services.

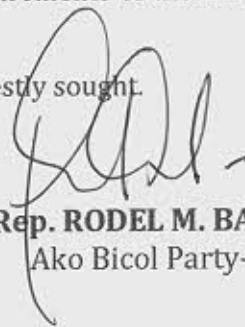
The Departmento of Tourism declared the following as its national tourism strategy:

1. Provide a comprehensive planning framework for the development of tourism so that it can play a key role in the development of the regional economy;
2. Elaborate a vision of the future direction and content of tourism development, which can help to focus and guide the actions of the various stakeholders towards a shared goal;
3. Indentify areas for tourism development, related tourism facilities and supporting infrastructure;
4. Specify the major programs, roles and responsibilities of key players, institutional arrangements and resource requirements for achieving the vision

Considering the growing importance of tourism in Philippine economic development, the mandatory appointment of a tourism officer will ensure that tourism plans, programs, and policies in the local governments shall be in accord with the national thrust, objectives, and strategy. On the other hand, the local government units will be able to contribute and provide a well-informed and objective assessments, reports, and evaluation on the status, requirements of the country's tourist destinations.

In light of these circumstances, the swift passage of the bill is earnestly sought.


Rep. CHRISTOPHER S. CO
Ako Bicol Party-List


Rep. RODEL M. BATOCABE
Ako Bicol Party-List

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HOUSE BILL NO. 3210

Introduced by CHRISTOPHER S. CO and RODEL M. BATOCABE

AN ACT
CREATING THE POSITION OF THE TOURIST 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, DUTIES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE VARIOUS SECTIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991".

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

SECTION 1. Section 443 (a) and (b) of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the "Local Government Code of 1991", is hereby amended to read as follows:

SEC. 443. *Officials of the Municipal Government.* - (a) There shall be in each municipality a municipal mayor, a municipal vice-mayor, sangguniang bayan members, a secretary to the sangguniang bayan, a municipal treasurer, a municipal assessor, a municipal accountant, a municipal budget officer, a municipal planning and development coordinator, a municipal engineer/building official, a municipal health officer, a municipal civil registrar, AND A TOURISM OFFICER IN FIRST CLASS MUNICIPALITIES.

(b) In addition thereto, the mayor may appoint a municipal administrator, a municipal legal officer, a municipal environment and natural resources officer, a municipal social welfare and development officer, a municipal architect, and a municipal information officer, AND A TOURISM OFFICER IN OTHER MUNICIPALITIES.

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SECTION 2. Section 454 (a) of Republic Act No. 7160, is hereby amended to read as follows:

SEC. 454. *Officials of the City Government.* - (a) There shall be in each city a mayor, a vice-mayor, sangguniang panlungsod members, a secretary to the sangguniang panlungsod, a city treasurer, a city assessor, a city accountant, a city budget officer, a city planning and development coordinator, a city engineer, a city health officer, a city civil registrar, a city administrator, a city legal officer, a city veterinarian, a city social welfare and development officer, a city general services officer, AND A CITY TOURISM OFFICER.

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SECTION 3. Section 463 of Republic Act No. 7160, is hereby amended to read as follows:

SEC. 463. *Officials of the Provincial Government.* - (a) There shall be in each province a governor, avice-governor, members of the sangguniang panlalawigan, a secretary to the sangguniang panlalawigan, a provincial treasurer, a provincial assessor, a provincial accountant, a provincial engineer, a provincial budget officer, a provincial planning and development coordinator, a provincial legal officer, a provincial administrator, a provincial health officer, a provincial social welfare and development officer, a provincial general services officer, a provincial agriculturist, and a provincial veterinarian, AND A PROVINCIAL TOURISM OFFICER.

SECTION 4. Book III , Title Four, Chapter 2, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"ARTICLE 21 – THR TOURISM OFFICER

SECTION 491. *QUALIFICATIONS, POWERS AND DUTIES.* - (A) NO PERSON SHALL BE APPOINTED AS A 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 IN TOURISM OR ANY RELATED COURSE FROM A RECOGNIZED COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY, AND A FIRST GRADE CIVIL SERVICE ELIGIBLE OR ITS EQUIVALENT. HE MUST HAVE PRACTICED HIS PROFESSION IN TOURISM OR ACQUIRED EXPERIENCE IN A RELATED FIELD OR INDUSTRY FOR AT LEAST FIVE (5) YEARS IN THE CASE OF THE PROVINCIAL AND CITY TOURISM OFFICER, AND THREE (3) YEARS IN THE CASE OF THE MUNICIPAL TOURISM. THE POSITION OF THE AGRICULTURIST SHALL BE MANDATORY FOR THE PROVINCIAL, CITY, FIRST-CLASS MUNICIPALITIES, AND MUNICIPALITIES WHERE TOURISM IS A MAJOR LOCAL INDUSTRY.

(B) THE TOURISM OFFICER SHALL TAKE CHARGE OF THE PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OFFICE AND SHALL:

- (1) TAKE CHARGE OF THE OFFICE OF TOURISM SERVICES, SUPERVISE THE PERSONNEL AND STAFF OF SAID OFFICE, FORMULATE PROGRAM IMPLEMENTATION GUIDELIENS AND RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR THE OPERATION OF THE SAID OFFICE FOR THE APPROVAL OF THE GOVERNOR OR MAYOR, AS THE CASE MAY BE, IN ORDER TO ASSIST HIM IN THE EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE AND ECONOMICAL IMPLEMENTATION OF A TOURISM SERVICES PROGRAM GEARED TO IMPLEMENTATION OF TOURISM-RELATED PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES;
- (2) FORMULATE AND RECOMMEND MEASURES FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE SANGGUNIAN AND PROVIDE TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE, ADVICE, AND SUPPORT TO THE GOVERNOR OR MAYOR, AS THE CASE MAY BE, IN THE PROTECTION AND PRESERVATION OF TOURIST DESTINATIONS, AND IN CARRYING OUT ACTIVITIES TO ENSURE THE DELIVERY OF BASIC SERVICES AND PROVISION OF ADEQUATE FACILITIES RELATED TO TOURISM;
- (3) CONDUCT TOURISM CAMPAIGNS AND INFORMATION DRIVE FOR THE PROMOTION TOURIST DESTINATIONS IN THE CITY, MUNICIPALITY, OR PROVINCE AS A TOURIST DESTINATION;
- (4) IDENTIFY AND DEVELOP POTENTIAL AREAS AS TOURIST DESTINATIONS, AND EVALUATE ITS POSSIBLE ECONOMIC, ENVIRONMENTAL, AND SOCIAL IMPACTS TO THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS
- (5) MONITOR AND EVALUATE THE IMPLEMENTATION AND EFFECTS OF THE DIFFERENT TOURISM PROGRAMS, PROJECTS, AND ACTIVITIES IN

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT CONCERNED IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE APPROVED TOURISM PLAN;

- (6) PREPARE COMPREHENSIVE PLANS AND OTHER DEVELOPMENT PLANNING DOCUMENTS FOR THE CONSIDERATION OF THE LOCAL DEVELOPMENT COUNCIL;
- (7) PROMOTE PEOPLE PARTICIPATION IN DEVELOPMENT PLANNING WITHIN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNIT CONCERNED;
- (8) COORDINATE WITH GOVERNMENT AGENCIES, NON-GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS, PRIVATE ENTERPRISES INVOLVED IN THE PROMOTION OF THE TOURISM INDUSTRY;
- (9) EXECUTE AND ENFORCE ALL LAWS, ORDINANCES AND REGULATIONS RELATING TO THE PROTECTION OF THE TOURIST INDUSTRY AND TOURIST DESTINATIONS;
- (10) RECOMMEND THE PROSECUTION OF ANY VIOLATION OF LAWS, ORDINANCES, OR REGULATIONS IN RELATION TO TOURISM; AND
- (11) ENSURE THAT LOCAL TOURISM POLICIES, OBJECTIVES, PLANS, AND STRATEGIES ARE IN ACCORD WITH NATIONAL POLICIES, OBJECTIVES, PLANS, AND STRATEGIES;
- (12) EXERCISE SUCH OTHER POWERS AND PERFORM SUCH OTHER FUNCTIONS AND DUTIES AS MAY BE PRESCRIBED BY LAW OR ORDINANCE.

SECTION 3. The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and every year thereafter.

SECTION 4. All laws, decrees, regulations or issuances inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.