



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **3735**



Introduced by **Honorable ERLPE JOHN "PING" M. AMANTE**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to create mandatory positions for tourism officers at the provincial and city levels and optional positions at the municipal level.

In support of the State's policy of developing responsible and sustainable tourism that ensures full enjoyment of benefits by host communities, professional and qualified tourism officers must be appointed in every LGU to enhance their competence and capacity to plan, manage, and oversee local tourism development.

Republic Act 9593, otherwise known as The Tourism Act of 2009, speaks of the creation of a permanent item for a tourism officer in every province, city, and municipality. However, this is only mandated to areas described loosely as having a significant tourism industry, as provided in Section 125(a) of the said Act. This bill shall set a clear directive on the appointment of tourism officers in LGUs, at least at the provincial and city levels, with the confidence that tourism must certainly exist in these jurisdictions – may it be by hosting attractions, sports/medical/wellness facilities, and venues for meetings, incentives, conventions, and events/exhibits (MICE) or by being key tourist service centers.

The mandatory accreditation of all primary tourism enterprises, as stipulated in R.A. 9593, will likewise need the tourism officers for its effective implementation on the ground.

Taking all these into account, the approval of this bill is thus earnestly requested.


ERLPE JOHN "PING" M. AMANTE



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3735

Introduced by **Honorable ERLPE JOHN "PING" M. AMANTE**

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR MANDATORY APPOINTMENT OF TOURISM OFFICERS
IN PROVINCES AND CITIES AND OPTIONAL APPOINTMENT IN
MUNICIPALITIES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT 7160,
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991 AS
AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. *Declaration of Policy.* — The State shall provide for a local government position that will be responsible for and accountable to the development of the tourism industry whereby it is harnessed as an engine of sustainable socio-economic growth and cultural affirmation to generate investment and employment.

SECTION 2. Section 443(b) of Republic Act No. 7160 entitled "Officials of the Municipal Government" is hereby amended to read as follows:

(b) In addition thereto, the mayor may appoint a municipal administrator, a municipal legal officer, a municipal agriculturist, a municipal environment and natural resources officer, a municipal social welfare and development officer, a municipal architect, (and) a municipal information officer(.), **and a municipal tourism officer.**

SECTION 3. Section 454(a) of Republic Act No. 7160 entitled "City Officials in General" is hereby amended to read as follows:

(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, (and) a city general services officer(.), **and a city tourism officer.**

SECTION 4. Section 463(a) of Republic Act No. 7160 entitled "Officials of the Provincial Government" is hereby amended to read as follows:

(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, 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 5. There shall be incorporated in Title V entitled "Appointed Local Officials Common to All Municipalities, Cities, and Provinces" of the said Code a new article to be known as Article XXI on The Tourism Officer to read as follows:

**"ARTICLE XXI
The Tourism Officer**

Section 490-A. Qualifications, Powers, and Duties

(a) 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 on tourism, business, law, economics, marketing, public administration or other related fields from a recognized college or university, and a first grade civil service eligible or its equivalent. He must have at least five (5) years of substantial work experience and involvement in the tourism industry either in the private sector or government.

Local Government Units with existing Tourism Officers prior to the implementation of this law will be given three (3) years to comply with the aforementioned requirements.

(b) The tourism officer shall take charge of the office for tourism and shall:

- (1) Prepare, implement, coordinate, monitor and update local tourism development plans;
- (2) Ensure the proper enforcement of tourism standards, laws, rules and regulations;
- (3) Provide regular reports on status of tourism plans and programs, tourist arrivals, employment, occupancy rates, investment and tourist products, among others, to the local chief executive and DOT; and
- (4) Coordinate with the DOT and its attached agencies and corporations in regard to the development and promotion of tourism in the locality.

(c) Exercise such other powers and perform such other duties and functions as may be prescribed by law or ordinance.”

SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 7. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected hereby shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 8. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,