



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

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session



House Bill No. 6070

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

On October 3, 2012, five tourists, including three (3) Taiwanese, died due to drowning in Boracay Island. On May 9, 2015, a German tourist was rushed to the hospital but was declared dead on arrival after scuba diving in Leyte. More recently, the island-paradise of Coron was put into the limelight after a young tourist died allegedly due to the inadequacy of the nearby hospital to treat the patient who was believed to be poisoned by a stone fish.

These situations brought to fore the necessity in making the country's tourist destinations more prepared and effective in dealing with emergencies and health-related crises. Tourism, as an industry, is prone to accidents due to the fact that most of its related activities entail providing experiences that offer "risks," "thrills," and "adventure." But despite this industry's well-known nature, any untoward incident is still unacceptable to the public; and the occurrence of such could even substantially affect the image of our destinations especially if this is due to failure of authorities to respond effectively to life-threatening situations.

In response to the growing demands to bolster emergency preparedness in the tourism industry, this bill shall seek to provide for the establishment of well-equipped and well-manned health facilities in key tourism destinations. This will demonstrate the government's sincerity in ensuring the safety and welfare of all domestic and international travelers as a way to support the robust growth of the tourism industry.

In light of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly requested.


ERLPE JOHN "PING" M. AMANTE



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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF HEALTH FACILITIES
IN KEY TOURISM DESTINATIONS AND PROVIDING FUNDS
THEREOF

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* This Act shall be known as the
"**Tourism Health Facilities Act.**"

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* It is the policy of the State to ensure the safety and well-being of all domestic and foreign tourists visiting the country's tourism destinations by providing basic facilities that can attend to emergency and health-related crises.

SECTION 3. *Establishment of Health Facilities in Tourism Destinations.* The Department of Tourism (DOT), Department of Health (DOH), and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) shall coordinate in the identification of tourist sites for the construction of tourism health facilities, hereinafter referred to as THFs. Provided, priority will be given to tourism sites that are isolated or with no existing health facility within four (4)-kilometer radius; Provided further, each THF shall have a minimum capability to respond to emergency cases and treat common illnesses and injuries; Provided furthermore, each THF shall also be equipped with an ambulance, sea ambulance or airlift helicopter, depending on the tourism site's needs, that can be deployed for emergency response in isolated areas and transport of patients from the THF to hospitals;

Provided finally, local government units (LGUs) shall provide the lots for the THFs as their counterpart.

SECTION 4. *Training of Health Personnel, Tourism Security Force, Tour Guides, and Other Tourism Frontliners.* — The DOH shall ensure that the health personnel deployed to all THFs are well-trained to respond to emergency cases and common illnesses and injuries; taking into consideration the idiosyncrasies of every tourism destination.

To complement the THFs, the DOH, in partnership with the DOT, shall also take the lead in equipping the tourism security force, tour guides, and other tourism frontliners with basic knowledge and skills on emergency preparedness and response.

SECTION 5. *Maintenance and Operations.* — Maintenance and operations of all THFs and emergency response vehicles, including the provision of manpower and supplies, shall be charged to the DOH.

SECTION 6. *Fees and Charges.* Fees and charges for the use of the tourism health facilities shall be determined by the DOH. Provided, fees and charges incurred by Filipino residents will be subsidized by the government while foreign tourists will be required to pay the full value of services availed in the THFs.

SECTION 7. *Appropriations.* — 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 thereafter.

SECTION 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* The Secretary of Tourism, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Secretary of Interior and Local Government, shall issue rules and regulations as he/she may deem necessary for the implementation of this Act.

SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 10. *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 11. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,