

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**SEVENTEENTH (17<sup>th</sup>) CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4532



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**Introduced by: Rep. JOSEPH STEPHEN S. PADUANO**  
**Rep. ARNOLFO A. TEVES, JR.**  
**Rep. MERCEDES K. ALVAREZ**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill seeks to establish the Negros Island Region to be known as Region XVIII.

Article X, Section 4 of the Constitution provides that the President of the Philippines shall exercise general supervision over local government units.

Article X, Section 14 of the Constitution requires the President to provide for regional development councils or other similar bodies for purposes of administrative decentralization to strengthen the autonomy of units therein.

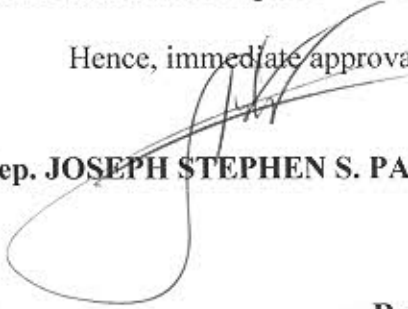
The establishment of a new region is in line with the Local Government Code of the Philippines and attuned with the contemporary and eventual changes in the form of government considering the public clamor for regional development in the countryside change in the form of government to federal system.

Long before Negros island earned its birth rite as a province since 1898, by and in itself through time evolved and has created its own identity separate and apart from other provinces at or near their geographical location in terms of development, industry, income, population and well established customs and tradition from a cross section of their society living within its area ranging from the local indigenous people to the urban dwellers. They are better known, accepted and recognized regional identity as "NEGRENSE".

Considering the inevitable progress and development of Negros Island it is but ripe and proper as a matter of necessity in preparation for its future development and expanding needs to establish the "Negros Island Region", which aims to accelerate the social and economic development of the cities and municipalities comprising the provinces of Negros Occidental and Negros Oriental better improving the delivery of public services in the aforementioned provinces as demanded from their respective constituents.

The establishment of the Negros Island Region is envisioned to promote efficiency, economy, and the greater impact in the delivery of government services. Moreover, it will pave the way for the region to determine its growth thrust and greater attention can now be provided to the island chartering its own destiny.

Hence, immediate approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
Rep. JOSEPH STEPHEN S. PADUANO

  
Rep. ARNOLFO A. TEVES, JR.

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**AN ACT**  
**ESTABLISHING THE NEGROS ISLAND REGION**  
**TO BE KNOWN AS REGION XVIII**

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

**SECTION 1.** This Act shall be known as the “**NEGROS ISLAND REGION ACT**”.

**SEC. 2.** It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote efficiency in the government to enable it to pursue programs consistent with national goals for accelerated social and economic development. Further, it will also enhance intergovernmental relations for efficient and effective delivery of services.

Pursuant to this policy, the State, after due consultation with the appropriate local government units, government agencies, and the private sector, to formulate socioeconomic development programs in accordance with its mandate to promote a more equitable distribution of opportunities, income and wealth, and ensure a sustainable increase in the amount of goods and services provided for the benefit of the people.

It is also the policy of the State that it shall promote administrative decentralization to strengthen the autonomy of the local government units and accelerate the economic and social growth and development of the region.

**SEC. 3.** The Negros Island Region is hereby established to be known as Region XVIII. The NIR shall be composed of the following provinces, including the cities, municipalities, and barangays comprising the provinces of:

1. Negros Occidental; and
2. Negros Oriental

**SEC. 4.** The same privileges under the rules and regulations covering the regions shall remain in force

**SEC. 5.** Within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act, the National Economic and Development Authority, in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government, shall formulate and promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the establishment of the regional center. The implementing rules and regulations issued pursuant to this section shall take effect thirty (30) days after its publication in a least two (2) national newspaper of general circulation.

**SEC. 6.** All laws, decrees, orders and rules and regulations which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

**SEC. 7.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in newspaper of general circulation.

**Approved.**