

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5572



Introduced by Manila Teachers Representative
VIRGILIO S. LACSON

INTRODUCTORY NOTE

It is the declared policy of the State to promote participation and development in all segments of the society as stipulated in the Constitution which provides that the State shall protect civil liberties and promote the general welfare of the people for the enjoyment by all of the blessings of democracy.

From these State policies, government must provide opportunities to lessen restrictions on the fundamental civil liberties enjoyed by the people. In this particular instance, the right of the people to foreign travel especially those who are engaged in representing the country in various international fora.

While present statutes provide exemptions to travel tax payments, the processing of the exemption by securing a Travel Tax Exemption Certificate from Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA) requires submission of original and photocopies of pertinent documents and payment of a processing fee of P200. This defeats the purpose of the law in easing restrictions in foreign travel.

This representation believes that government support must be available in terms of incentives and efficient service to public officials and employees, school teachers and students who engage themselves in representing the country. Exempting people automatically in paying travel taxes who bring honor and pride to the country and doing representational work for and in behalf of the government in international cooperation and bilateral meetings, only requiring to show pertinent documents to authorities in the point of embarkation, will unburden those who travel within a limited budget.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


VIRGILIO S. LACSON

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AN ACT
GRANTING AUTOMATIC TRAVEL TAX EXEMPTION TO PUBLIC OFFICIALS
AND EMPLOYEES, PRIVATE AND PUBLIC SCHOOL TEACHERS AND STUDENTS
ENGAGED IN OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIONS, ACADEMIC CONFERENCES ,
INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH CONSORTIUM AND SPORT TOURNAMENTS
ABROAD

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Expanded Automatic Travel Tax Exemption Act”

SEC. 2. *Coverage.* – Public officials and employees, private and public school teachers and students representing the country abroad in state-visits, official trips, political and economic cooperation and bilateral meetings, academic conferences, international research consortium and sport tournaments shall be automatically exempted in paying travel taxes upon presentation of supporting documents and valid identification cards to airport authorities at the point of embarkation.

SEC. 3. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA) and the Department of Transportation (DOTr), within sixty (60) days upon approval of this Act, in coordination with relevant agencies shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulation to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 4. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.



SEC. 5. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, orders, decrees, rules and regulations, and other parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 6. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

A handwritten signature, possibly of a legislator or official, is located at the bottom left of the page.