

Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City

18<sup>th</sup> Congress  
First Regular Session  
House Bill No. 4479



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Introduced by HON. GERARDO "GERRYBOY" J. ESPINA, JR.

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

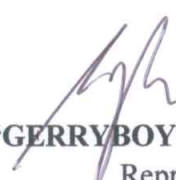
It is not unknown to many that Biliran Province is made up of a group of islands. And with the passage of RA 10409 otherwise known as "An Act Declaring the Province of Biliran as Tourism Development Area and providing funds therefor" it is expected that more foreign and local tourists will be enticed to explore the island.

Though Biliran is considered as the fourth smallest province in the Philippines with a total land area of 53,601 hectares (132,450 acres), it is rich in history and exceptional cultural heritage. However, it has no cultural center to showcase its unique cultural heritage. The province has no museum to house and protect all the artifacts, relics, works of art and the multitude of other objects which symbolize and represent the heritage of the past, present and, future of its residents.

Our historical artifacts and objects, with unique cultural significance, are scattered throughout different municipalities in the province. Most are worn out, submerged to flash floods, washed out by storm surge, stolen and lost. The rest of the objects may soon just disappear and be lost forever unless immediate action is taken.

Thus, the establishment of a cultural center and museum in the province of Biliran is imperative to perpetuate and protect its local history, tradition and values, cultural heritage and regional identity.

In view thereof, immediate approval of this Bill is earnestly sought.

  
**HON. GERARDO "GERRYBOY" J. ESPINA, JR.**  
Representative  
Lone District of Biliran

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**AN ACT**  
**ESTABLISHING A CULTURAL CENTER AND MUSEUM IN THE PROVINCE**  
**OF BILIRAN AND PROVIDING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

**Section 1. Establishment.** – There shall be established, under the supervision of the National Museum, a cultural center and museum in the province of Biliran to be known as Biliran Cultural Center and Museum.

**Sec 2. Site Selection.** – The *Sangguniang Panglungsod* of the Province of Biliran in coordination with the Director of the National Museum, shall choose the site of the Biliran Cultural Center and Museum.

**Sec3.** For purposes of implementation of its activities and functions, the Biliran Cultural Center and Museum, is hereby authorized to give emphasis to the following undertakings:

- a. To compile the musical notes and lyrics of Biliran traditional songs, ballads and contemporary music compositions; and to collect samples of musical instruments of Biliran origin, design and manufacture; and to acquire and display a varied range of Biliran arts and artifacts;
- b. To publish and disseminate Biliran literary works, epics, stories and historical accounts;
- c. To compile Biliran literature, film, or audio-visual recordings of cultural performances in music, dances, oral literature, and festival celebrations; Biliran works, names of barangays, towns and other places of interests and their respective history;
- d. To gather and document Biliran religious practices and traditions, and the background and origin of Biliran fiestas and festivals;
- e. To compile photographs of and showcase by appropriate exhibits, Biliran landmarks, historical sites and scenic views;

- f. To gather specimens of archaeological findings; to collect stones, rocks and other geological materials; and to preserve by appropriate methods, samples of flora and fauna indigenous to the province of Biliran.

**Sec. 4. Appropriations.** – The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be charged to the current appropriations for the National Museum. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for the continuous operation and maintenance of the cultural center and museum shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

**Sec. 5. Effectivity** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,