

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

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session
House Bill No. 7138



**INTRODUCED BY
REP. ALFRED VARGAS**

**AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CULTURE, ARTS, TOURISM
AND HERITAGE COUNCILS IN EVERY PROVINCE OF THE COUNTRY**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

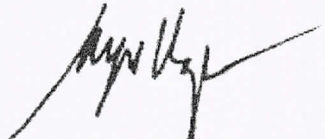
This bill seeks to establish Culture, Arts, Tourism and Heritage Councils in every province of the country.

The Western thinker George Santayana wrote that nations who never learn from the lessons of the past are bound to repeat its mistakes. Art, heritage, and traditions reflects the culture of a country. Language, cuisine, music, handicrafts, museums, and literature surround the general public and shape the shared identity of Filipinos.

While the National Commission on Culture and the Arts was created primarily for the purpose of developing, enhancing, and institutionalizing arts and culture programs in the country, it is limited by organizational nature- an agency based in the country's capital with no bureaucratic network to expand its programs, projects and activities up to the grassroots level. Hence, at best, it could only enter into memoranda of agreement with local government units to fund particular program or project with arts and culture component. Animating the citizenry with the love and passion for their culture, arts, tourism and heritage should be a responsibility of the local government units at the provincial and city level with the support of national agencies like the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, the National Museum, the National Historic Commission of the Philippines and the private sector.

While a number of local government units have taken the initiative of organizing arts, culture, tourism and heritage council, a vast number of our provinces which have rich untapped arts, culture and heritage wealth are not moving that consigning to the dustbins of history what should have been preserved, enhanced and developed for the next generation to enjoy.

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



ALFRED VARGAS

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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 “Culture, Arts, Tourism, and Heritage Councils in Every Province Act”

SECTION 2. *Creation of Culture, Arts, Tourism, and Heritage Councils.* – There is hereby created, in every province in the country, a Culture, Arts, Tourism, and Heritage Council that shall undertake culture, arts, tourism and heritage preservation, enhancement and development.

SECTION 3. *Funding.* – The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) shall assist in the creation of these councils and provide for its initial funding. The DILG shall, in coordination with relevant culture, arts, tourism and heritage agencies actively promote the creation of these councils.

The subsequent allocation for the operationalization of these councils shall be borne by their respective local government units.

SECTION 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within thirty (30) days from the approval of this Act, the Secretary of the Department of Interior and

Local Government with representatives from the Local Government Units, shall promulgate the rules and regulations implementing the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 5. *Separability Clause.* – If any part or provision of this Act shall be declared or held to be unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause.* = All general and special laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamation and administrative regulation, or any parts thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,