

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

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session
House Bill No. 7145



**INTRODUCED BY
REP. ALFRED VARGAS**

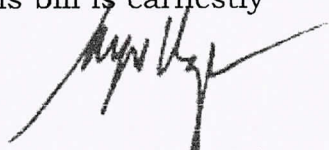
**AN ACT
MANDATING THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS AND HIGHWAYS
TO PRIORITIZE THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE NECESSARY
INFRASTRUCTURE FOR THE ACCESSIBILITY OF ALL TOURISM SITES
IN THE COUNTRY, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREOF**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Tourism is an important contributor to the Philippine economy. In 2018, the tourism industries have contributed an estimated 12.7 percent of the country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP) which is about Php 2.2 trillion.¹ This sector generates employment, revenues, and plays an important role in our culture and development. However, many tourist destinations in the Philippines remain far from the main roads, are inaccessible, and are often faced with concerns on safety for both tourists and locals.

This bill seeks to enhance and protect the tourism industry through the implementation of the Convergence Program for Enhancing Tourism Access in order to ensure the construction of roads and bridges and make tourists sites more accessible in the country.

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


ALFRED VARGAS

¹Philippine Statistics Authority. 2019. "Contributions of Tourism to the Philippine Economy is 12.7 percent in 2018." <https://psa.gov.ph/content/contribution-tourism-philippine-economy-127-percent-2018> (Accessed 12 July 2020)

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “*Tourism Sites Accessibility Act*”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – Tourism is a proven income generator and as such deserves the support of the State. Thus, the implementation of the Convergence Program for Enhancing Tourism Access of the Department of Tourism (DOT) and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) shall be prioritized.

SECTION 3. *Construction of Accessibility Infrastructures for Tourism.*
– The DPWH is hereby mandated to ensure the construction of roads and bridges leading to all tourism sites in the country.

SECTION 4. *Appropriations.* – The initial funding requirement for the implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the Department of Tourism and the Department of Public Works and Highways. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the agencies’ yearly budgets under the General Appropriations.

SECTION 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Secretary of the Department of Tourism, in collaboration with the Secretary of the Department of Public Works and Highways, shall issue the rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this Act within sixty (60) days from its effectivity.

SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, orders, decrees, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,