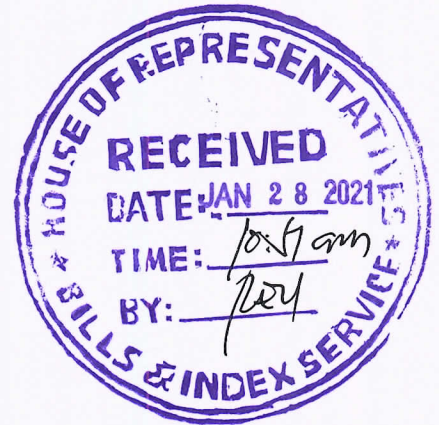


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8564



Introduced by MARINO Party-list Representatives
SANDRO L. GONZALEZ
and **MACNELL M. LUSOTAN**

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY (MARINA) REGIONAL
OFFICE IN PUERTO PRINCESA CITY, PROVINCE OF PALAWAN AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Created by virtue of Republic Act No. 10879, the Southwestern Tagalog Region, also known as MIMAROPA representing its constituent provinces of Mindoro (Occidental and Oriental), Marinduque, Romblon, and Palawan, is an important geopolitical and economic subdivision envisioned to effect a more equitable distribution of wealth and spur countryside development.

The region hosts an integral part of the Road Roll On/Roll Off (RoRo) Terminal System (RRTS) under the Strong Republic Nautical Highway via the Roxas-Calapan route and missionary routes linking its island provinces to Luzon. Its accredited maritime higher education institutions (MHEIs) and maritime training institutes (MTIs) also contribute to the increasing seafaring workforce of the Philippines for overseas deployment.

MIMAROPA's economy relies mostly on fishing, ecotourism and agriculture. It is one of the producers of the country's top export products like rice, banana, coconut, cashew, and papaya; and also the second top producer of fish and seaweed in the country, all of which are transported via ships.

The need for accessible government services through a Regional Office of the Maritime Industry Authority catering to the maritime-related activities in the region is intertwined with its archipelagic configuration and socio-economic importance.

It is for these reasons that we enjoin our colleagues in the House to support the passage of this bill.



SANDRO L. GONZALEZ

Representative
MARINO Party-list



MACNELL M. LUSOTAN

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

Section 1. *Creation of Regional Office* – There shall be established under the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) a Regional Office in the City of Puerto Princesa, Province of Palawan.

Section 2. *Functions* – The Regional Office in Puerto Princesa City shall provide frontline services of the MARINA, including, but not limited to, the processing and issuance of certificates of competency, endorsement, proficiency and documentary evidence required of seafarers; and processing and issuance of certificates of ship safety, public convenience, registration and documentary requirements of ships, in the exercise of its powers and functions under existing laws, orders, rules and regulations.

Section 3. *Appropriations* – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the savings or current year's appropriations of the MARINA. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Section 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations* – The MARINA shall issue the necessary implementing rules and regulations in accordance with the provisions of this Act within ninety (90) days from the effectivity hereof. In the formulation of such rules and regulations, the MARINA shall ensure that the processes and procedures in providing frontline services shall be the most efficient and convenient way for its stakeholders including, but not limited to, computerization and automation, and elimination of redundant fees and charges.

Section 5. *Separability Clause* – If for any reason any section or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections, or provisions hereof not affected by such declaration shall remain in force and in effect.

Section 6. *Repealing Clause* – All existing laws, orders, decrees, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 7. *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,