

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 8665



Introduced by Representatives Sol Aragones and Marlyn B. Alonte

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Tourism Sector has been a significant contributor in the Philippine Economy. In recognition of this contribution, Republic Act No. 9593, otherwise known as “The Tourism Act of 2009,” was enacted. In the said law, the State declared tourism as an indispensable element of the national economy and an industry of national interest and importance, which must be harnessed as an engine of socioeconomic growth and cultural affirmation to generate investment, foreign exchange and employment, and to continue to mold an enhanced sense of national pride for all Filipinos.

Section 42 of Republic Act No. 9593 requires that every province, city or municipality in which tourism is a significant industry shall have a permanent position for a tourism officer. However, many of the local government units still do not have permanent *plantilla* positions for these officers. Further, the Local Government Code does not provide for a tourism officer in its enumeration of required officials in the local government units.

This bill proposes to amend Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the “Local Government Code of 1991”, to include a tourism officer among its permanent officials in local government units where tourism is a significant industry. This will ensure that the spirit of The Tourism Act of 2009 is complied with. A permanent tourism officer will certainly strengthen and promote the growth of the tourism industry in the country.

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


SOL ARAGONES
3RD District, Laguna


MARLYN B. ALONTE
Lone District of Biñan

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1 **AN ACT AMENDING SECTIONS 443, 454, AND 463 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160**
2 **OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991”**

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

5 **SECTION 1.** *Section 443 of Republic Act No. 7160.* – Section 443 of Republic Act No.
6 7160 shall be amended to read as follows:

7 **“Section 443.** Officials of the Municipal Government. –

8 (a) There shall be in each municipality a municipal mayor, a municipal vice-
9 mayor, sangguniang bayan members, a secretary to the sangguniang bayan, a
10 municipal treasurer, a municipal assessor, a municipal accountant, a municipal
11 budget officer, a municipal planning and development coordinator, a municipal
12 engineer/building official, a municipal health officer and a municipal civil
13 registrar.

14 **IN MUNICIPALITIES WHERE TOURISM IS A SIGNIFICANT**
15 **INDUSTRY, A TOURISM OFFICER SHALL ALSO BE APPOINTED,**
16 **IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE QUALIFICATIONS SET FORTH IN**
17 **REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9593, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “THE**
18 **TOURISM ACT OF 2009.”**

19 (b) xxx

20 (c) xxx

21 (d) xxx

22 (e) xxx

1 **SECTION 2.** *Section 454 of Republic Act No. 7160.* – Section 454 of Republic Act No.
2 7160 shall be amended to read as follows:

3 **Section 454.** Officials of the City Government. -

- 4 (a) There shall be in each city a mayor, a vice-mayor, sangguniang panlungsod
5 members, a secretary to the sangguniang panlungsod, a city treasurer, a city
6 assessor, a city accountant, a city budget officer, a city planning and
7 development coordinator, a city engineer, a city health officer, a city civil
8 registrar, a city administrator, a city legal officer, a city veterinarian, a city
9 social welfare and development officer, and a city general services officer.

10 **IN CITIES WHERE TOURISM IS A SIGNIFICANT INDUSTRY, A**
11 **TOURISM OFFICER SHALL ALSO BE APPOINTED, IN**
12 **ACCORDANCE WITH THE QUALIFICATIONS SET FORTH IN**
13 **REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9593, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “THE**
14 **TOURISM ACT OF 2009.”**

15 (b) xxx

16 (c) xxx

17 (d) xxx

18 (e) xxx”

19 **SECTION 3.** *Section 463 of Republic Act No. 7160.* – Section 463 of Republic Act No.
20 7160 shall be amended to read as follows:

21 **“Section 463.** Officials of the Provincial Government. –

- 22 (a) There shall be in each province a governor, a vice-governor, members of the
23 sangguniang panlalawigan, a secretary to the sangguniang panlalawigan, a
24 provincial treasurer, a provincial assessor, a provincial accountant, a provincial
25 engineer, a provincial budget officer, a provincial planning and development
26 coordinator, a provincial legal officer, a provincial administrator, a provincial
27 health officer, a provincial social welfare and development officer, a provincial
28 general services officer, a provincial agriculturist, and a provincial veterinarian.

29 **IN PROVINCES WHERE TOURISM IS A SIGNIFICANT INDUSTRY, A**
30 **TOURISM OFFICER SHALL ALSO BE APPOINTED, IN**
31 **ACCORDANCE WITH THE QUALIFICATIONS SET FORTH IN**

1 **REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9593, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS “THE TOURISM**
2 **ACT OF 2009.”**

3 (b) xxx

4 (c) xxx

5 (d) xxx

6 (e) xxx”

7 **SECTION 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The Department of Interior and
8 Local Government (DILG) in coordination with the Department of Tourism (DOT) shall
9 promulgate the rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this Act.

10 **SECTION 5. *Separability Clause.*** – Any portion or provision of this Act that may be
11 declared unconstitutional or invalid shall not have the effect of nullifying the other portions or
12 provisions hereof as long as such remaining portion or provision can still subsist and be given
13 effect in their entirety.

14 **SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or
15 other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed
16 or modified accordingly.

17 **SECTION 7. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
18 publication in the Official Gazette or any two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the
19 Philippines.

20 *Approved.*