

**Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City**

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session**

HOUSE BILL NO. 9880



Introduced by **Representative FRANZ E. ALVAREZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is axiomatic that where there's no LTO office, the cost of driver's license or OR/CR renewal is exponentially five or ten times higher. This reality is best illustrated in Calamianes in Palawan or the island cluster of the Municipalities of Coron, Busuanga, Culion and Linapacan.

A typical tourist transport driver from Coron who wishes to renew their license will have to either fly to Manila or Puerto Princesa to get this done. In either those places, they will have to spend no less than one night in an inn before traveling back. This is because though renewal takes less than an hour, traveling within the same day to catch a return flight is fairly difficult.

The fare to Manila or Puerto Princesa from Coron ordinarily costs P3,500, round-trip at P7,000. A decent overnight accommodation will cost them about P1,000 and combined with a P150/meal x 3 meals x 2 days, puts the total budget for food and lodging at P1,900. Combined together with the fee for license renewal of a conservative P600, the van driver will have to budget about P10,000 just to make sure that no local traffic enforcer hounds them every time they ferry tourists or that they will not be held liable should they figure in a road accident. This is more than ten times than what a local living near where there's an LTO district office will pay for.

This Bill seeks to ease the difficulties of registering and renewing driver's licenses and motor vehicle registrations of the residents and firms in the Municipalities of Coron and the adjacent Busuanga and the island Municipalities of Culion, Linapacan, Agutaya, Cuyo and Magsaysay that are literally hundreds of kilometers and no less than twelve hours away from the only LTO District Office in Palawan that is located in Puerto Princesa City.

The lack of an accessible LTO district office in the said tourism towns naturally restricts the movement of people and goods thereby reducing opportunities for new businesses, job generation, and additional local revenue. The pre-pandemic steady growth of tourist arrivals in the area punctuates the loss that could have otherwise provided more food on the table or additional budget to send the youngest child to college.

This Bill will benefit the drivers and vehicle owners who are mostly dependent on tourism and its related activities in the Calamianes and neighboring islands, El Nido being 3 hours away, included. If approved before the Eighteenth Congress adjourns, its benefits will be reaped just in time for the reopening of Palawan as one of the world's best island destination especially by those who really felt the impact of the global pandemic.

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


FRANZ E. ALVAREZ

FRANZ E. ALVAREZ
DATE 27.07.2021
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**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A REGULAR DISTRICT OFFICE OF THE LAND
TRANSPORTATION OFFICE (LTO) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CORON,
PROVINCE OF PALAWAN AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

Section 1. There shall be established a regular district office of the Land Transportation Office (LTO) in the Municipality of Coron, Province of Palawan.

Sec. 2. The Secretary of Transportation shall immediately include in the Department's programs the operationalization of the LTO District Office in the Municipality of Coron, Province of Palawan the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

Sec. 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,