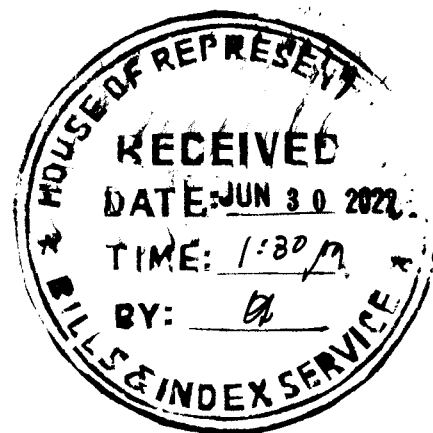


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 119



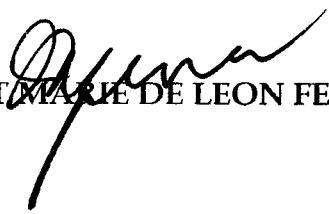
Introduced by
REP. JULIET MARIE DE LEON FERRER

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The proposed measure seeks to create Negros Island Region (NIR) to be composed of the Provinces of Negros Occidental and Negros Oriental.

Administrative regions are established to promote efficiency in government to better serve the people and promote social and economic development in the covered area. With the establishment of a Negros Island Region (NIR) the delivery of services to the people of Negros will be more efficient because there will be no need to travel to Iloilo City or Cebu City, as the case may be. Regional offices will be situated within the island of Negros and the people will save time and resources in transacting with the government's regional offices. It will be more practical and will be to the best interest to the people of Negros to establish a Negros Island Region.

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


JULIET MARIE DE LEON FERRER

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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NINETEENTH CONGRESS
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HOUSE BILL NO. 119

Introduced by
REP. JULIET MARIE DE LEON FERRER

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE NEGROS ISLAND REGION AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. State Policy - It is the policy of the State to strengthen local government units to serve as the foundation for a strong and self-reliant nation.

SEC. 2. This act shall be known as the Negros Island Region Act of 2022.

SEC. 3. Pursuant to this Act, the Negros Island Region is hereby created which shall be composed of the following provinces, including the Cities, Municipalities, and Barangays comprising the provinces below mentioned:

A. Negros Occidental; and

B. Negros Oriental.

SEC. 4. Upon approval of this act, a Negros Island Technical Working Group composed of the Office of the President (OP), the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), the representatives of the Office of the Governor of Province of Negros Occidental and Negros Occidental and all the elected members of the House of Representatives of both Provinces of Negros Occidental including Bacolod City and Negros Oriental, is hereby constituted to form a Technical Working Group (TWG).

The TWG shall formulate a roadmap to put in place the institutional arrangements for the NIR; recommend to the OP the preferred Regional Center; arrange the requirements for organizational development, staffing, and budgeting of regional line and regulatory agencies, as well as the imperatives for development planning and investment programming.

SEC. 5. Notwithstanding the activities of the NIR-TWG, and to ensure the smooth transitions of basic services, the DILG is hereby designated as the secretariat until the TWG has completed its task. The final report and recommendation of the TWG shall be approved by the Office of the President who shall have the final decision.

SECTION 6. Role of Government Agencies. All departments, bureaus, offices, agencies, and instrumentalities of the national government, including government-owned or controlled corporations and government financial institutions, are hereby directed to extend their full assistance to the NIR-TWG in support of its functions and activities.

SECTION 7. Funding. The funding for NIR-TWG shall be sourced from the implementing agencies of the NIR-TWG and the provinces making up the NIR, subject to the availability of funds and upon compliance with all existing applicable laws and budgetary, accounting, and auditing rules and regulations.

SECTION 8. Repealing. All orders, issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Order are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 9. Separability. If any provision of this Order is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions unaffected thereby shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 10. Effectivity. This Order shall take effect immediately upon its publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.