

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

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 732



Introduced by MARINO Party-list Representative
SANDRO L. GONZALEZ

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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The seven (7) provinces comprising the Administrative Region of Central Luzon (Region III) prides itself not only as the “Rice Granary of the Philippines”, but also as home to rapidly expanding maritime activities with the presence of important sea ports including the Subic Bay Freeport Zone, the Mariveles Grain Terminal, and Ports of Lucanin, Limay, and Orion in Bataan.

Filipino-owned shipyards including Herma, Seafront & Marine are, likewise, located in the region alongside numerous accredited maritime higher education institutions (MHEIs) including the Maritime Academy of Asia and Pacific (MAAP) and Philippine Merchant Marine Academy (PMMA) and maritime training institutes (MTIs) in Subic and Bataan.

Further, the Philippine Statistics Authority noted that Central Luzon’s total volume of fisheries production increased by 1.8 percent in the first quarter of 2022. The region’s total fisheries production was at 97.4 thousand metric tons for the first quarter of 2022 with 1.7 thousand metric tons increased from its 2021 production. The slight increase was attributed by the increments of commercial and aquaculture fisheries at 36.0 percent and 6.6 percent, respectively.¹

¹ *Volume of Fisheries Production in Central Luzon Fourth Quarter 2021*. Philippine Statistics Authority RSSO 03. (2022, February 24). Retrieved from <http://rso03.psa.gov.ph/article/volume-fisheries-production-central-luzon-fourth-quarter-2021#:~:text=The%20total%20production%20of%20municipal,thousand%20metric%20tons%20in%202020>.

In view of the foregoing, the early passage of this proposed measure is highly recommended.

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a large, sweeping loop at the top and a horizontal base.

SANDRO L. GONZALEZ

Representative

MARINO Party-list

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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 Balanga, Province of Bataan.

Section 2. *Functions* – The Regional Office in Ilagan 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,