



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1761



INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE MARLYN B. ALONTE

**AN ACT AMENDING SECTION 443, 454, AND 463 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160
OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991"**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Tourism is an integral part of the Philippine economy. According to the Philippine Statistics Authority, the percent share of tourism in the country's gross domestic product (GDP) is 12.7 percent for which the Tourism Direct Gross Value Added (TDGVA) amounted to PhP 2.48 trillion in 2019. These figures are still expected to rise and create a remarkable quantity of employment opportunities. Thus, calls for the need to fortify the tourism safeguards provided by Republic Act No. 9593, otherwise known as the "Tourism Act of 2009."

Section 42 of Republic Act No. 9593 provides Tourism Officers – Every province, city or municipality in which tourism is a significant industry shall have a permanent position for a tourism officer. However, the local government units where tourism is a booming industry fall short of permanent positions for tourism officers.

The Republic Act No. 10066, otherwise known as the "National Cultural Heritage Act of 2009", assigns particular tasks to local government units to foster preservation, enrichment, and dynamic evolution of Filipino culture. For case in a point, Section 14(b) of Republic Act No. 10066 provides Local government units, through their cultural offices, shall likewise maintain an inventory of cultural property under its jurisdiction and shall furnish the Commission a copy of the same. However, most if not all, of local government units mandated by this law fall short of having permanent offices for cultural heritage and positions for cultural affairs officers.

Culture is becoming an increasingly important aspect of the travel and tourism experience. Today, culture and tourism are viewed as two key drivers of economic growth. Notwithstanding, Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the “Local Government Code of 1991” does not include the provision of permanent position of tourism officers and/or cultural affairs officer in its exclusive list of officers for every local government unit.

Without a specific amendatory clause in Tourism Act of 2009, local government units failed to establish permanent position for tourism officers by local government units and without a specific clause in RA 10006 for a cultural officer in various LGUs. This proposed measure intends to address the issue by amending the pertinent provision of the Local Government Code of 1991 and ensure that permanent position for tourism and cultural affairs officers are provided in order to strengthen cultural heritage work and promote the growth of the tourism industry in the country.

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



REP. MARLYN B. ALONTE
Lone District of Biñan



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

SECTION 1. Section 443 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the "Local Government Code of 1991" is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec.443 Officials of the Municipal Government.

(a) There shall be in each municipality a Municipal Mayor, a Municipal Vice Mayor, Sangguniang Bayan members, a secretary to the Sangguniang Bayan, Municipal Treasurer, a Municipal Assessor, a Municipal Accountant, a Municipal Budget Officer, a Municipal Planning and Development Coordinator, a Municipal Engineer/Building Official, a Municipal Health Officer, and a Municipal Civil Registrar.

IN MUNICIPALITIES, A TOURISM AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS OFFICER SHALL ALSO BE APPOINTED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE QUALIFICATIONS SET FORTH IN REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9593, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "TOURISM ACT OF 2009" AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10066, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "NATIONAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ACT OF 2009".

SECTION 2. Section 454 of the Local Government Code of 1991 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec.454. Officials of the City Government.

(a) There shall be in each City Mayor, Vice Mayor, Sangguniang Bayan members, a Secretary to the Sangguniang Panglunsod, a City Treasurer, a City Assessor, a City Accountant, a City Budget Officer, a City Planning and Development Coordinator, a City Engineer, a City Health Officer, a City Civil Registrar, a City Administrator, a City Legal Officer, a City Veterinarian, a City Social Welfare and Development Officer, and a City General service Officer.

IN CITIES, A TOURISM AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS OFFICER SHALL ALSO BE APPOINTED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE QUALIFICA-

TIONS SET FORTH IN REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9593, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “TOURISM ACT OF 2009” AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10066, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “NATIONAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ACT OF 2009”.

SECTION 3. Section 463 of the Local Government Code of 1991 is hereby amended read as follows:

Sec. 463. Officials of the Provincial Government.

(a) There shall be in each province a Governor, a Vice Governor, a Members of Sangguniang Panlalawigan, a Provincial Treasurer, a Provincial Assessor, a Provincial Accountant, a Provincial Engineer, a Provincial Budget Officers, a Provincial Planning and Development Coordinator, a Provincial Legal Officer, a Provincial Administrator, a Provincial Health Officer, a Provincial Social Welfare and Development Officer, a Provincial General Services Officer, a Provincial Agriculturist and a Provincial Veterinarian.

IN PROVINCES, A TOURISM AND CULTURAL AFFAIRS OFFICER SHALL ALSO BE APPOINTED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE QUALIFICATIONS SET FORTH IN REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9593, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “TOURISM ACT OF 2009” AND REPUBLIC ACT NO. 10066, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “NATIONAL CULTURAL HERITAGE ACT OF 2009”.

SECTION 4. Implementing Agency. The Department of Interior and Local Governance (DILG) in coordination with the Department of Tourism (DOT), National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) and the Civil Service Commission (CSC) shall promulgate the rules and regulation necessary to implement the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 5. Repealing Clause. All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or portion thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 6. Separability Clause. If any part of provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

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.