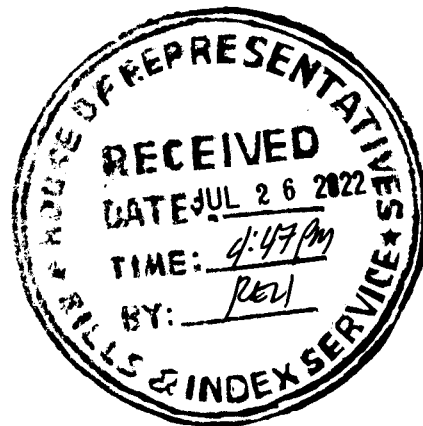




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2380



Introduced by Honorable Luz V. Mercado

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Internet Age has greatly contributed to the international exposure of Southern Leyte as a world class tourist destination. Everybody can expect that economic development pushed by the tourism industry will soon follow.

However, the expected economic development has not taken off due to lack of Infrastructure. To address this issue, it is essential for Southern Leyte to be declared as a tourist zone. In this manner, the appropriate national government agencies can work together to speed up the Infrastructure development of Southern Leyte.

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

LUZ V. MERCADO



Republic of the Philippines

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Nineteenth Congress
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HOUSE BILL NO. 2380

Introduced by Honorable Luz V. Mercado

**AN ACT DECLARING THE PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN LEYTE A
TOURISM ZONE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

SECTION 1. The Province of Southern Leyte is hereby declared a tourism zone. As such, its development shall be prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), and shall be subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of tourism zones.

SECTION 2. The DOT, in coordination with the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority and other concerned agencies of the government, shall prepare a tourism development plan providing for the development, maintenance, improvement and restoration of tourist sites, where appropriate, in conformity with set standards, including the construction of hotels, resorts, restaurants, recreational facilities and other appropriate facilities and infrastructure: Provided, That said development plan shall ensure the preservation of the ecological balance and natural beauty of the area.

SECTION 3. The DOT shall take immediate steps to implement the development plan and incorporate the same in the Department's overall tourism development program for the ensuing calendar year.

SECTION 4. Upon the promulgation of this Act, the DPWH, in coordination with the DOT, shall implement the construction and improvement of roads and other infrastructure necessary in the development of the Province of Southern Leyte, and incorporate the same in the Department's infrastructure program.

SECTION 5. The Secretary of the DOT and the Secretary of the DPWH shall include in their respective Department's program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act and from internally generated funds of the DOT.

SECTION 6. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOT shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

SECTION 7. All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act shall be deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 8. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,