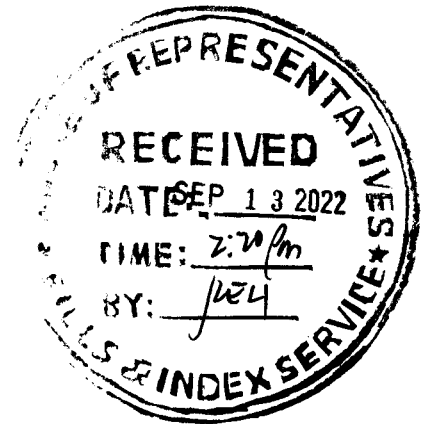


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4753



Introduced by Representative Alan 1 B. Ecleo

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The proposed bill aims to establish a provincial office of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) in the Province of Dinagat Islands.

As provided for under Presidential Decree No. 442, as amended, otherwise known as the Labor Code of the Philippines, it is the declared policy of the State to promote full employment and ensure equal work opportunities regardless of sex, race or creed and regulate the relations between workers and employers. Furthermore, under Executive Order No. 126, among the mandates of the DOLE is the promotion of gainful employment opportunities and the optimization of the development and utilization of the country's manpower resources.

In the pursuit of fulfilling the abovementioned state policy and mandate, several regional and provincial DOLE offices have been established all over the country to reach more potential workers and efficiently connect them with employers, thereby enabling them to provide for their families and be productive members of society. Despite these efforts and developments, however, some provinces, from the moment of their creation, unfortunately still do not have their own DOLE provincial offices. Among these provinces is the Province of Dinagat Islands.

Fourteen years since its creation by virtue of Republic Act No. 9355, the Province of Dinagat Islands continues to grapple with a high unemployment rate which is incredibly alarming for a young province trying to stand on its own feet and bolster the local economy. The problem with unemployment was further aggravated by the pandemic, and then, by the onslaught of typhoon Odette. Such a serious social and economic issue have resulted in a further widening of inequalities which this representation seeks to address in a timely manner.

Hence, the establishment of the DOLE Provincial Office of Dinagat Islands is deemed an urgent necessity in order to bridge the gap between local unemployment and the available jobs in the market, both on a national and international level. When approved, the presence of the said office in the Province will bring plenty of opportunities to improve the lives of Dinagatnons.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Alan B. Ecleo', written in a cursive style.

ALAN B. ECLEO
Representative, Lone District of Dinagat Islands

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session
HOUSE BILL NO. 4753

Introduced by Representative Alan 1 B. Ecleo

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING A PROVINCIAL OFFICE OF THE
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND EMPLOYMENT IN THE PROVINCE
OF DINAGAT ISLANDS, 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 provincial office of the Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) in the Province Office of Dinagat Islands, to be known as the DOLE Provincial Office of Dinagat Islands, which shall exercise jurisdiction over all municipalities of the province and shall be headed by a provincial director.

SECTION 2. The Secretary of Labor and Employment shall immediately include in the agency's programs the operationalization of the DOLE Provincial Office of Dinagat Islands, the initial funding of which shall be charged against the current fiscal year's appropriation of the DOLE. Thereafter, the amount necessary for the continued operation of said DOLE provincial office shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 3. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* Within six (6) months from the approval of this Act, the Secretary of Labor and Employment shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 4. *Separability Clause.* Should any part or provision of this Act be held unconstitutional or invalid, the provisions which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SECTION 5. *Repealing Clause.* Any other law, issuance or part thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 6. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in any two national newspapers of general circulation.