



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6243



Introduced by Representative Rudys Caesar G. Fariñas I

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish an extension office of the Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) in the City of Laoag, Province of Ilocos Norte.

MARINA is the leading agency for maritime administration for safer people, ships, and a cleaner environment. It likewise envisions the Philippines to have a globally competitive naval industry.

Under its mandate, MARINA registers, supervises, and regulates all vessels, provides technological training assistance to all Filipino fisherfolk, and processes certificates and professional identification cards or seaman’s books for Filipino seafarers, among others.

According to the MARINA Central Office, the Province of Ilocos Norte, as of August 2019, has an estimated 4,167 seafarers residing in the province. In the First Legislative District of Ilocos Norte alone, there are 2,567 seafarers.

MUNICIPALITY	NO. OF SEAFARERS
Adams	480
Bacarra	246
Bangui	58
Burgos	50
Carasi	5
Dumalneg	40
Laoag	745
Pagudpud	95
Pasuquin	193
Sarrat	254
Vintar	401
TOTAL	2,567

Ilocano seafarers still must travel 8-12 hours to Manila to process their requirements for training and other applications, and the distance and expenses alone put a heavy burden on them.

The nearest regional office of MARINA is in San Fernando City, La Union, which is approximately five (5) hours of travel from Laoag City. Although it is much easier for residents of Ilocos Norte to go to La Union instead of Manila, the field office can accommodate only a limited number of applicants. Therefore, this limitation forces some applicants to travel to the MARINA Central office in Manila.

Establishing a MARINA extension office in Laoag City will likewise assist the fisherfolk of Ilocos Norte with their requests for financial and technological assistance. As a result, the fishing industry in Ilocos Norte continues to flourish. According to the Philippine Statistics Authority - Ilocos Region's fisheries production grew in 2019 by 9.34%. In Region I alone, Ilocos Norte shared 3.54% of the total fisheries production.

Thus, establishing an extension office will not only lessen the burden on the seafarers of Ilocos Norte but provide an opportunity for the province to have an equal chance to develop its fishing industry.

Therefore, this representation seeks the urgent passage of this measure.



RUDYS CAESAR G. FARIÑAS I



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**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING AN EXTENSION OFFICE OF THE MARITIME INDUSTRY
AUTHORITY (MARINA) IN THE CITY OF LAOAG, PROVINCE OF ILOCOS
NORTE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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

1 **SEC. 1.** There shall be established an extension office of the Maritime
2 Industry Authority (MARINA) in the City of Laoag, Province of Ilocos Norte. The
3 extension office shall provide services for the residents of the Province of Ilocos
4 Norte and other nearby provinces.

5 **SEC. 2.** The Administrator of MARINA shall immediately include in the
6 Authority's program the operationalization of the MARINA extension office in the
7 City of Laoag, Province of Ilocos Norte, the initial funding of which shall be
8 charged against the current year's appropriations of MARINA Region 1 located
9 in the Province of La Union. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for the
10 regular and continued operation of the MARINA extension office shall be included
11 in the annual General Appropriations Act.

12 **SEC. 3.** The Secretary of Transportation, thru the Administrator of
13 MARINA, is hereby authorized to reorganize the offices, personnel, funds, and
14 properties of the MARINA Region 1 for the effective and efficient delivery of

1 services for the residents of Ilocos Norte. The Secretary of Transportation and
2 MARINA shall submit the consolidated reorganization plan and any amendments
3 thereof to the President of the Philippines for his approval.

4 The authority granted under this Section may be exercised until December
5 31, 2022.

6 **SEC 4.** Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the
7 Secretary of Transportation shall, in coordination with the Administrator of
8 MARINA, issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective
9 implementation of this Act.

10 **SEC. 5.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
11 the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

12 *Approved,*