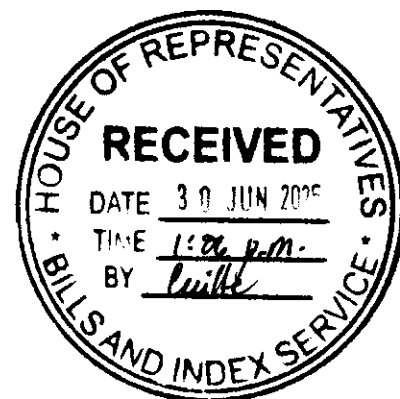




Republic of the Philippines  
House of Representatives  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

**TWENTIETH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **289**



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Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE ALYSSA MICHAELA "MICA" M. GONZALES**

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**AN ACT  
DECLARING THE IMMEDIATE ENVIRONS OF THE SAN GUILLERMO PARISH CHURCH  
LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BACOLOR, PROVINCE OF PAMPANGA, A  
HERITAGE SITE AND TOURIST DESTINATION**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill seeks to declare the immediate environs of the San Guillermo Parish Church located in the municipality of Bacolor, province of Pampanga, a heritage site and tourist destination.

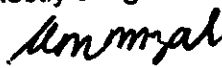
The San Guillermo Parish Church stands as a powerful symbol of Filipino resilience, faith and cultural heritage. Established in 1576 by the Augustinian friars and named after the municipality of Bacolor's patron saint, the San Guillermo Parish Church has endured centuries of natural disasters, including a major earthquake in 1880 and the catastrophic eruption of Mt. Pinatubo in 1991, which buried it halfway in lahar.

Despite these tragedies, the people of Bacolor have demonstrated an extraordinary commitment to preserving the church, painstakingly excavating and restoring its priceless baroque altars and centuries-old religious icons.

The San Guillermo Parish Church's architectural splendor—evident in its gilded main and side retablos, intricate pulpit, and historical significance—makes it one of the oldest and most artistically important churches in the Philippines. It also gained renewed fame through its feature in the popular ABS-CBN drama *May Bukas Pa*, further increasing its cultural and tourism value.

Recognizing San Guillermo Parish Church as a historic site ensures protection of its baroque architecture, religious artifacts, and historical integrity from unregulated alterations or encroaching development. Declaring the church a tourism site can drive sustainable tourism, providing economic benefits to the local community while promoting appreciation for Filipino heritage on a global scale.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
**REP. ALYSSA MICHAELA "MICA" M. GONZALES**  
3<sup>rd</sup> District, Pampanga



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

**SECTION 1.** The immediate environs of the San Guillermo Parish Church located in the Municipality of Bacolor, Province of Pampanga, are hereby declared a heritage site and tourism destination. Pursuant thereto, the development of the immediate environs of the San Guillermo Parish Church shall be prioritized and supported by the Department of Tourism (DOT), in coordination with the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP), municipal government of Bacolor, and concerned agencies of the government, subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of heritage sites and tourism destinations.

**SECTION 2.** Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the municipal government of Bacolor shall, in coordination with the DOT, NHCP, Department of Public Works and Highways and concerned agencies of the government, prepare a tourism development plan that shall include the construction, installation and maintenance of such appropriate infrastructure and facilities to improve the overall features of the immediate environs surrounding the San Guillermo Parish Church, thereby ensuring its accessibility and the security of tourists: *Provided*, That said development plan shall ensure the preservation and conservation of the historical significance of the San Guillermo Parish Church: *Provided, further*, That the implementation of the tourism development plan shall be included in the budget of the municipal government of Bacolor.

**SECTION 3.** The DOT shall assist the municipal government of Bacolor in the implementation of the tourism development plan by providing technical assistance in the tourism capacity building. It shall also include the immediate environs of the San Guillermo Parish Church in all its national and regional promotion programs.

**SECTION 4.** The funding for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual budget of the municipal government of Bacolor. The DOT may augment such allocation with internally-generated funds.

**SECTION 5.** Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the municipal government of Bacolor shall, in consultation with the DOT and concerned agencies of the government, promulgate rules and regulations to implement this Act.

**SECTION 6.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette and in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,