

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 335



Introduced by **Rep. RACHEL MARGUERITE "CUTIE" Del Mar**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In the spirit of fostering regional development and enhancing the efficiency of port operations in the Visayas region, this bill proposes an amendment to Republic Act No. 7621, otherwise known as the Charter of the Cebu Ports Authority (CPA). The proposed amendment aims to expand the jurisdiction of the CPA to encompass not only the island of Cebu but also the entire regions of Central Visayas and Eastern Visayas.

The rationale for this amendment is multifold:

1. **Increased Efficiency in Port Management** - The expansion of CPA's jurisdiction is envisaged to centralize and streamline port operations across these key regions, leading to enhanced efficiency and reduced administrative complexities.

2. **Economic Growth and Regional Development** - Central and Eastern Visayas have demonstrated significant economic potential, especially in terms of trade and passenger movements. By extending CPA's jurisdiction, there is an opportunity to further catalyze economic growth and development in these regions.

3. **Standardization of Operations and Safety Protocols** - The amendment seeks to ensure that the high standards of operation and safety protocols that the CPA is known for are uniformly applied across a broader geographical area, thereby elevating the overall quality of port services in the Visayas region.

4. **Optimized Resource Utilization** - With a larger jurisdiction, the CPA can optimize the use of resources, including human capital, technology, and infrastructure, ensuring that these are deployed efficiently and effectively to meet the growing demands of the regions.

5. **Enhanced Regional Connectivity** - By consolidating port management under the CPA for these regions, the bill aims to enhance the connectivity between islands, facilitating smoother and more coordinated movement of goods and passengers.

6. **Adaptation to Growing Trade and Passenger Traffic** - The expansion is a proactive response to the increasing trade and passenger traffic in these regions, ensuring that the infrastructure and services are adequately equipped to handle this growth.

The proposed amendment aligns with the national development goals of the Philippines and seeks to contribute to the overall improvement of our port services and enhance regional autonomy, which are pivotal to the country's economic and social progress.

Your favorable consideration of this bill will be a significant step towards realizing a more integrated, efficient, and prosperous Visayas region.


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AN ACT
EXPANDING THE JURISDICTION OF THE CEBU PORTS
AUTHORITY, AMENDING THEREOF REPUBLIC ACT NO.
7621¹, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CHARTER OF THE
CEBU PORTS AUTHORITY.

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

Section 1. Section 6 of Republic Act No. 7621 is hereby amended to read, as follows:

"SECTION 6. *Territorial Jurisdiction.* – The territorial jurisdiction of the Authority shall include all seas, lakes, rivers and all other navigable inland waterways within the Province of Cebu, including the City of Cebu, ALL PROVINCES, CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES WITHIN THE CENTRAL AND EASTERN VISAYAS and all other highly urbanized cities therein which may hereafter be created therein.

¹ Approved on June 26, 1992, and known as the Charter of the Cebu Port Authority.

SEC. 2. Section 21 of Republic Act No. 7621 is hereby amended to read, as follows:

"SECTION 21. *Transfer of Existing Facilities and Intangible Assets.* – All existing facilities including wharves, piers, slips, docks, bulkheads, cargo terminals, warehouses, cold storage, loading and unloading equipment, and passenger terminals and accessories, within the EXPANDED territorial jurisdiction of the Authority; other lands, buildings and other properties, movable or immovable, belonging to or presently administered by the Philippine Ports Authority WITHIN THE EXPANDED TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION OF THE AUTHORITY; and all assets, powers, rights, interests and privileges relating to port works or operations, including all equipment, are hereby transferred to the Authority."

SEC. 3. Section 22 of Republic Act No. 7621 is hereby amended to read, as follows:

"SECTION 22. *Projects in Progress.* – All ongoing projects WITHIN THE EXPANDED TERRITORIAL JURISDICTION OF THE AUTHORITY relating to the rehabilitation and/or construction of port facilities and supply of equipment shall be administered and undertaken by the Authority."

SEC. 4. Section 24 of Republic Act No. 7621 is hereby amended to read, as follows:

"SECTION 24. *Abolition of ALL the Port Management OFFICES OF THE PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHORITY IN*

CENTRAL AND EASTERN VISAYAS. - The Port Management Offices OF THE PHILIPPINE PORTS AUTHORITY IN CENTRAL AND EASTERN VISAYAS ARE hereby abolished. The General Manager of the Authority shall ensure the smooth transfer of responsibility from the abolished ENTITIES to the Authority as well as the determination of personnel to be retained: provided, that all officials and employees whose services are terminated shall, if not eligible for retirement, be given gratuities equivalent to one (1) month salary for every year of continuous satisfactory service on the basis of the highest salary received in addition to other benefits accorded to them by existing laws."

SEC. 5. Appropriation. - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

SEC. 6. Separability Clause. - If any provision of this Act or the application of such provision to any person or circumstance is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or the application of such provision to other persons or circumstance shall not be affected by such declaration.

SEC. 7. Repealing Clause. - All acts, charters, executive orders, administrative orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof, in conflict with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 8. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,