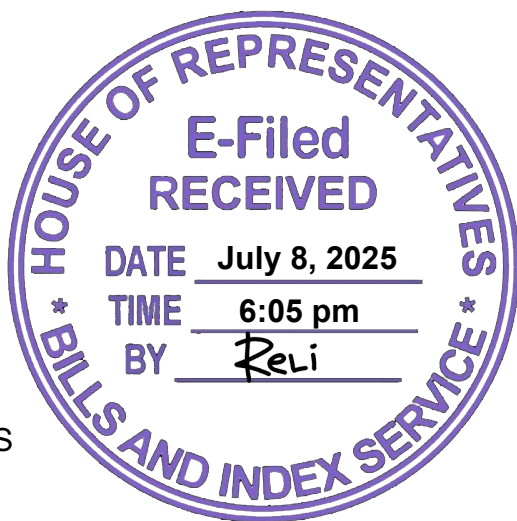




Republic of the Philippines  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
Quezon City, Metro Manila



TWENTIETH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **1609**

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INTRODUCED BY REP. STEPHEN JAMES T. TAN

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#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Enchanted City of Biringan is a mythical invisible city, located in the heart of Pagsanghan, Samar. The name “Biringan” means “The Black City” or “The Invisible City” in Waray, the local language, for “hanapan ng mga nawawala” or where one finds the lost. Despite its mystical status, Biringan has gained a following of curious travelers who are interested in exploring the mysteries and supernatural stories associated with it.

Tourism in Biringan, Pagsanghan would certainly help tourism in Samar by attracting more visitors to the province. The increased tourism would also create job opportunities and boost the local economy thereby benefiting the residents of Pagsanghan, Samar. Biringan City is also a health and wellness destination due to its natural surroundings and peaceful atmosphere. The city’s serene atmosphere is perfect for relaxation and meditation, making it an ideal destination for those seeking to improve their physical and mental well-being.

The proposed bill will also place the Municipality of Pagsanghan in the tourism map of Eastern Visayas and the Philippines.

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

  
STEPHEN JAMES T. TAN

Republic of the Philippines  
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**AN ACT DECLARING THE ENCHANTED BIRINGAN CITY IN BRGY  
POBLACION, MUNICIPALITY OF PAGSANGHAN A HEALTH AND WELLNESS  
DESTINATION**

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

**SECTION 1. *Title.*** - This act shall be known as “*The Enchanted Biringan City Health And Wellness Destination Bill*”.

**SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote a tourism industry that is ecologically sustainable, responsible, participative, culturally sensitive, economically viable and equitable for local communities. To this end, the State shall endeavor to provide the proper mechanisms and infrastructures for sustainable tourism development. It shall promote and develop certain areas and sites identified as tourist destinations or attractions or having potential for tourism to drive and propel inclusive growth throughout the country.

**SECTION 3. *The Enchanted City of Biringan as a Health and Wellness Destination.*** The Enchanted City of Biringan in Brgy. Poblacion, Municipality of Pagsanghan is hereby established as a health and wellness destination. Its

development shall be incorporated in the Department of Tourism's (DOT) National Tourism Development Plan (NTDP) successor plan for 2023 – 2028 and be jointly implemented with the Municipality of Pagsanghan and the Provincial Tourism Office of the Province of Samar. The DOT and the local government units concerned are responsible for the maintenance and preservation of Biringan City's natural and cultural resources.

**SECTION 4. *Appropriations.*** - The DOT, DENR, DPWH, and LGU shall include in its Annual Investment Program (AIP) the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

**SECTION 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - The Samar Tourism Council, after due consultation with the DOT, DENR, DPWH, LGUs, and other stakeholders, shall promulgate the rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act within sixty (60) days after its effectivity. Provided, That the law shall take effect after sixty (60) days with or without the IRR.

**SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

**SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, and issuances, proclamations, rules and regulations, and other issuances contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act shall be deemed amended accordingly.

**SECTION 8. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a national newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*