

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 5721



Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

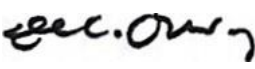
The National Shrine of Mary, Help of Christians, was created by Jaime Cardinal Sin in June 1975. It was inaugurated on July 24, 1975 and solemnly consecrated on December 4, 1976 during the Silver Jubilee Year celebrations of Salesians' presence in the Philippines. It was a decade after, in 1985, when the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines gave the church the title of a National Shrine. Since then National Shrine of Mary, Help of Christians has been a rallying point and source of inspiration to both parishioners and devotees of Mary, Help of Christians.

On February 22, 2025 The National Shrine of Mary, Help of Christians was declared as the Minor Basilica and National Shrine of Mary, Help of Christians. For years now, the Minor Basilica and National Shrine of Mary, Help of Christians is considered to be one of attractions in Parañaque city, which is visited by numerous pilgrims, devotees and tourists yearly.

This proposed measure seeks to declare the Minor Basilica and National Shrine of Mary, Help of Christians, located in Barangay Don Bosco, Parañaque City, as a tourist destination; and mandate the Department of Tourism, its attached agencies in coordination with the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority and other concerned agencies of the government to prepare a comprehensive development plan to improve the overall features of the area surrounding the Minor Basilica and National Shrine of Mary, Help of Christians, and ensure its accessibility and the security of the tourists.

This measure was already approved on Third and Final Reading by the House of Representatives during the 18th and 19th Congress, reflective of the measure's broad legislative support.

On behalf of the people of City of Parañaque, and for the common good of the Filipino people, the approval of the said measure is earnestly sought.


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AN ACT

DECLARING THE MINOR BASILICA AND NATIONAL SHRINE OF MARY, HELP OF CHRISTIANS, LOCATED IN BARANGAY DON BOSCO, PARAÑAQUE CITY, A HERITAGE SITE AND TOURIST DESTINATION, PROVIDING FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. The Minor Basilica and National Shrine of Mary, Help of Christians, located in Barangay DonBosco, Parañaque City is hereby declared a tourist destination. As such, its development shall be prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT) in coordination with the National Historical Commission of the Philippines (NHCP) and other concerned agencies subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of heritage site and tourist destinations.

SECTION 2. Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the DOT, in coordination with the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) and other concerned agencies of the government shall prepare a tourism development plan involving the construction, installation and maintenance of such appropriate facilities and infrastructure that shall improve the overall features of the area surrounding the Minor Basilica and National Shrine of Mary, Help of Christians, thereby ensuring its accessibility and the security of the faithful and tourists; Provided, That said development plan shall ensure its preservation and conservation of the historical significance of the area.

SECTION 3. The DOT and its concerned attached agencies shall take immediate steps to implement the appropriate tourism development plan for the Minor Basilica and National Shrine of Mary, Help of Christians and its immediate environs and shall incorporate the same in the National Tourism Development Plan.

SECTION 4. The Secretary of the DOT shall include in the Department's program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act and internally generated funds of the DOT.

SECTION 5. Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOT, in consultation with the local government unit of Paranaque City, shall issue rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.

SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect immediately following the completion of its publication either in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,