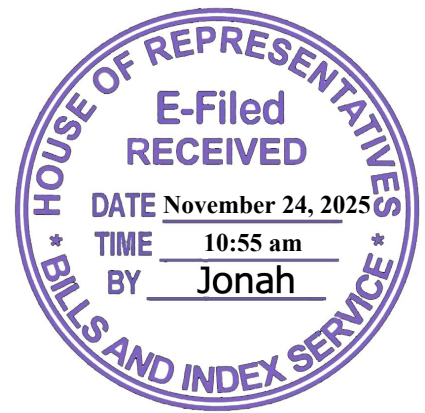


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6300



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

EXPLANATORY NOTE

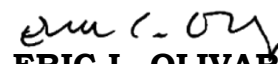
The 1987 Constitution directs the State to protect the rights and welfare of small fisherfolk and to ensure their equitable access to marine resources. Yet many coastal communities continue to face insecure living conditions and limited access to their traditional fishing grounds. While Section 108 of Republic Act No. 8550, as amended, provides for fisherfolk settlement areas, its implementation remains unclear and uneven across coastal localities.

This bill strengthens Section 108 by clearly defining the roles of the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and local government units in establishing settlement areas with adequate access to fishing grounds. It further requires local government units (LGUs) to integrate such areas into their Comprehensive Land Use Plans and grants preference to registered fisherfolk who lack real property.

Through updated coordination, land use integration, and prioritization of vulnerable fisherfolk, this measure aims to promote secure, organized, and livelihood-supporting communities for one of the country's most marginalized sectors.

Additionally, this bill has been approved on third reading by the 19th Congress and which is reflective of the broad legislative support that this measure enjoys.

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


ERIC L. OLIVAREZ

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **6300**

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

“AN ACT
MANDATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF FISHERFOLK SETTLEMENT
AREAS BY THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, DEPARTMENT OF
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, DEPARTMENT
OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES, AND LOCAL
GOVERNMENT UNITS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SEC. 108 OF
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8550, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "PHILIPPINE
FISHERIES CODE OF 1998," AS AMENDED BY REPUBLIC ACT NO.
10654”

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

Section 1. Section 108 of Republic Act No. 8550, otherwise known as "The Philippine Fisheries Code of 1998", as amended by Republic Act No. 10654, is hereby amended to read as follows:

SECTION 108. Fisherfolk Settlement Areas. - The Department shall establish and create fisherfolk settlement areas in coordination with concerned agencies of the government, where certain areas of the public domain, specifically near the fishing ground, shall be reserved for the settlement of the municipal fisherfolk. Nothing in this section shall be construed to vest ownership of any resettlement area to a municipal fisherfolk for whom said areas may have been reserved for or had been actually granted to.

THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, THE DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES, AND THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS OF CITIES OR MUNICIPALITIES EXERCISING JURISDICTION OVER COASTAL AREAS AND MUNICIPAL WATERS SHALL, IN ACCORDANCE WITH EXISTING LAND USE, HOUSING, AND ENVIRONMENTAL LAWS, IDENTIFY, ESTABLISH, AND CREATE SETTLEMENT AREAS WHICH HAVE ADEQUATE ACCESS TO FISHING GROUNDS.

PROVIDED, THAT THE ESTABLISHMENT OF SUCH SETTLEMENT AREAS SHALL BE UNDERTAKEN ONLY ON PUBLIC LANDS OR LANDS LAWFULLY ACQUIRED FOR THE PURPOSE;

PROVIDED, FURTHER, THAT IN PREVIOUSLY IDENTIFIED OR ESTABLISHED SETTLEMENT AREAS WITH ADEQUATE ACCESS TO FISHING GROUNDS, REGISTERED FISHERFOLK WHO ARE WITHOUT REAL PROPERTY SHALL BE GRANTED PREFERENCE IN THE AWARD OF SETTLEMENT RIGHTS, CONSISTENT WITH APPLICABLE RESETTLEMENT AND HOUSING LAWS;

PROVIDED, FINALLY, THAT LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS EXERCISING JURISDICTION OVER COASTAL AREAS AND MUNICIPAL WATERS SHALL, IN COORDINATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT, INTEGRATE SETTLEMENT AREAS FOR FISHERFOLK IN THEIR RESPECTIVE COMPREHENSIVE LAND USE PLANS.”

Section 2. *Separability Clause.* - If any portion or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other portions or provisions hereof, which are not affected thereby, shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 3. *Repealing Clause.* -All other laws, decrees, orders, circulars, issuances, rules and regulations and part thereof which are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

Section 4. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,