

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

**TWENTIETH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION**

House Bill No. 6342



INTRODUCED BY Rep. Francisco A. Barzaga

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This proposed measure seeks to strengthen transparency and accountability within the House of Representatives by mandating the disclosure of all foreign travel undertaken by its elected members. Public office is a public trust. With increasing demand for openness in government transactions and activities, it is essential that the public are informed of the whereabouts and activities of their elected Representatives, particularly when such activities may affect the performance of their legislative functions.

Recent public discussions have highlighted concerns regarding undisclosed foreign travel by government officials, raising concerns about potential conflicts of interest, misuse of public funds, and dereliction in duty. By requiring Representatives to provide advance disclosure of foreign travel plans, this bill ensures that the public, the media, and relevant oversight bodies can monitor such activities and hold public officials accountable. The measure also preserves necessary confidentiality for sensitive or security-related travel, striking a balance between transparency and national interest.

The passage of this bill will reinforce public trust and uphold the principles of responsible and ethical governance.

As such, the approval of this Bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'F. Barzaga'.

REP. FRANCISCO A. BARZAGA
Lone District of the City of Dasmarinas

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**AN ACT MANDATING THE DISCLOSURE OF FOREIGN TRAVEL BY ALL ELECTED
MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, PROVIDING GUIDELINES
THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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 “Representatives’ Travel Disclosure Act.”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote transparency, accountability, and public trust in government institutions. In view of the vital role of elected members of the House of Representatives in policymaking and national governance, it is imperative that all official and personal foreign travels affecting the performance of legislative duties be properly disclosed.

SECTION 3. Coverage. — This Act shall apply exclusively to all duly elected Members of the House of Representatives, including party-list Representatives.

SECTION 4. Mandatory Disclosure of Foreign Travel. — Every elected Member of the House of Representatives shall submit to the Office of the Speaker a written disclosure of any intended foreign travel, whether official or personal, which shall include the destination, the purpose of travel, the dates of departure and return, and the country or countries to be visited, if applicable. The disclosure shall be filed at least seven (7) days prior to the scheduled departure or, in cases of emergency or unforeseen circumstances, within twenty-four (24) hours prior to departure. No Member shall depart for any foreign travel without such disclosure.

SECTION 5. Publication and Access. — The Office of the Secretary General shall maintain an official record of all submitted foreign travel disclosures and shall cause their publication on the official website of the House of Representatives within twenty-four (24) hours of receipt and shall remain accessible to the public throughout the Member's term and for five (5) years following the expiration of the term.

SECTION 6. Liability for Non-Compliance. — Any Member who fails to comply with the disclosure requirements of this Act, who knowingly provides incomplete, false, or misleading information, or who undertakes foreign travel without making the required disclosure shall be subject to disciplinary action by the House of Representatives. Sanctions may include reprimand, censure, suspension, or such other penalties as may be imposed under the House Rules or other applicable laws, without prejudice to any separate administrative or criminal liability.

SECTION 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the House of Representatives, through the Office of the Secretary General in coordination with the Committee on Rules, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations necessary for the full and proper implementation of this Act.

SECTION 8. Separability Clause. — If any part of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remaining provisions shall remain valid and enforceable.

SECTION 9. Repealing Clause. — All laws, decrees, executive orders, and rules inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 10. 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,