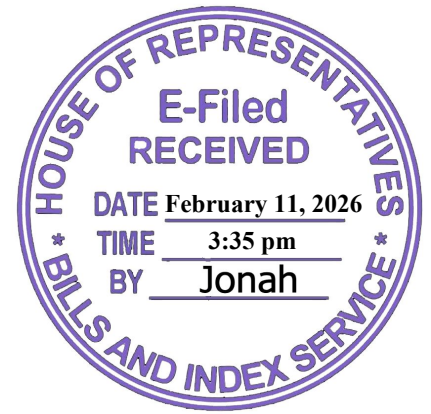


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7757



Introduced by Representative Paolo Henry M. Marcoleta

EXPLANATORY NOTE

No less than the Constitution protects every Filipino's right to travel. Section 6, Article III of the 1987 Constitution provides that "neither shall the right to travel be impaired except in the interest of national security, public safety, or public health, as may be provided by law."

Enacted on 3 October 1977, Presidential Decree no. 1183, as amended, was issued to facilitate foreign travel and make the same more beneficial for both the State and the People. However, the imposition of Travel Taxes, and its continued collection every single instance a Filipino has to travel abroad – regardless if the departure is for official, educational, corporate, or leisurely purpose – is becoming a burden. Currently, travelers pay travel taxes ranging from P300 to P2,700 per departure, depending on flight class and eligibility for discounts.

Tourism Secretary Christina Frasco said the travel tax "provides benefits to the Filipino people," noting that 50 percent of the collections are allocated to tourism infrastructure, 40 percent support tourism education, while the remaining 10 percent are allocated to heritage agencies.

The justification that travel tax funds several programs of the Department of Tourism is akin to stating travelers shall forever carry the burden of funding these state programs. That is the job of the Government. As legislators, we have to ensure that the laws work for the people and make life more livable for them. Our policies shall ensure not only that our programs are well-funded, but more so that our people are not constantly and unreasonably carrying the burden of paying various onerous taxes for all our funding needs.

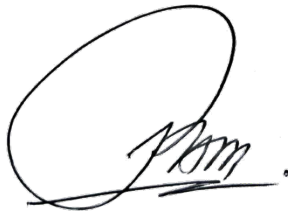
Abolishing travel taxes is also not unheard of. The ASEAN Tourism Agreement of 2002 provides that Member States have committed to facilitate

travel within the region, including the removal or phasing out of travel levies and travel taxes on nationals of ASEAN Member States traveling to other ASEAN Member States. This obligation under ASEAN Agreement is yet to be fulfilled.

Furthermore, as of February 2026, the Philippines remains the only country in Southeast Asia that imposes a separate, mandatory travel tax specifically on its own citizens. While a similar charge is also collected by other countries like Japan (Sayonara Tax) and Australia (Passenger Movement Charge), these countries incorporate those fees into their airlines fares and collect against all travelers, not just its citizens.

Thus, this measure seeks to abolish in total the imposition of travel tax under Presidential Decree 1183 and its subsequent amendments.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'P. Marcoleta', with a large, stylized loop at the beginning.

PAOLO HENRY M. MARCOLETA
Representative, SAGIP Partylist

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7757

Introduced by Representative Paolo Henry M. Marcoleta

AN ACT ABOLISHING THE TRAVEL TAX

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

1 **SECTION 1.** Presidential Decree No. 1183, as amended, laws, executive
2 orders, or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, modified,
3 or amended accordingly.
4

5 Further, Republic Act No. 1478, as amended, Republic Act No. 7722,
6 Republic Act No. 9593, and all provisions of laws relating to the authority to
7 collect, appropriate, or receive funding from the collection of travel tax are hereby
8 repealed.
9

10 Travel tax shall therefore no longer be imposed on travellers leaving the
11 Philippines for every international departure.
12
13

14 **SEC. 2.** The amount necessary for the programs funded by the travel tax
15 collections and for the implementation of this Act shall be charged against the
16 respective fund sources under the appropriations provided in the current General
17 Appropriations Act (GAA) of the Department of Tourism for the Tourism
18 Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA), the Commission on
19 Higher Education (CHED) for the Higher Education Development Fund, and the
20 National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) for the National
21 Endowment Fund for Culture and the Arts. Thereafter, such sums as may be
22 necessary shall be included in the annual GAA.
23

1 **SEC. 3. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision or part of this Act is
2 declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder thereof not otherwise affected
3 shall remain in full force and effect.
4

5
6 **SEC. 4. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, presidential decrees, executive
7 orders, letters of instructions, proclamations or administrative regulations that are
8 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or
9 modified accordingly.
10

11
12 **SEC. 5. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
13 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.
14

15 *Approved,*