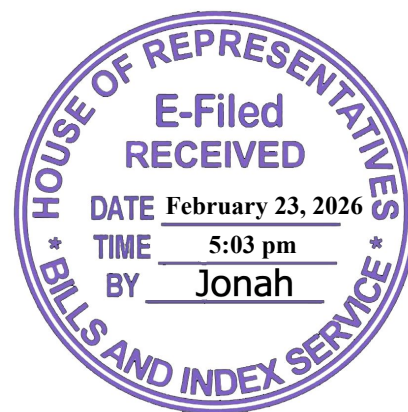


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
1st Regular Session

House Bill No. **7975**



Introduced by Representative AUDREY KAY T. ZUBIRI

AN ACT
ABOLISHING THE TRAVEL TAX

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This measure seeks to abolish the collection of travel taxes from Filipinos and residents departing the country consistent with the right of our people to travel as enshrined in our Constitution.

Currently, travel taxes are collected from Filipinos and residents departing the country ranging from P1,620.00 up to P2,700.00 for each person per flight. Although travel tax was originally instituted as a revenue-generating measure to support tourism infrastructure, higher education development, and cultural programs, over time, the continued imposition of this tax has raised concerns regarding its impact on Filipino travelers, and passengers who already bear various government-imposed fees, airfare charges, and other costs when traveling abroad.

This additional financial burden discourages international travel, limits global mobility, and places Filipino travelers at a disadvantage compared to travelers from neighboring countries that do not impose a similar tax.

Globalization demands ease of travel as it is vital not only for tourism but also for education, employment, business expansion, and international cooperation. Abolishing the travel tax is a step toward making international travel more accessible and affordable for Filipino citizens. It aligns with the State's policy of promoting tourism, cultural exchange, and global engagement without imposing unnecessary financial barriers.

Ultimately, without the travel tax, we can encourage domestic and international travel, promote fairness, economic efficiency, and mobility while maintaining government support for vital tourism, education, and cultural programs.

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



AUDREY KAY T. ZUBIRI

3rd District Representative, Bukidnon

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “*Travel Tax Abolition Act*
2 *of 2026.*”

3
4 **SEC. 2. *Repealing Clause.*** – The State hereby abolishes the travel tax as imposed under
5 Presidential Decree No. 1183, as amended, and Section 73 of Republic Act No. 9593, otherwise
6 known as the “Tourism Act of 2009”. All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations
7 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

8
9 **SEC. 3. *Prohibition and Refund.*** – No government agency or private entity shall
10 collect travel taxes upon effectivity of this Act. For flights scheduled on or after the date of
11 effectivity, the collecting authority shall immediately refund any previously paid travel taxes
12 to the passenger.

13
14 **SEC. 4. *Budget and Alternative Funding.*** – To ensure continuity of programs
15 previously funded by travel tax collections, the national government shall provide the
16 necessary funding for the following agencies through the annual General Appropriations Act
17 (GAA):

- 18
19 1. The Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA) for tourism
20 development projects;

2. The Commission on Higher Education (CHED) for tourism-related higher education development funds; and
3. The National Commission for Culture and the Arts (NCCA) for the National Endowment Fund for the Culture and the Arts.

SEC. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act, the TIEZA, in coordination with the Department of Budget and Management (DBM), shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for the efficient implementation of the tax refund and the transition to GAA-based funding.

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

SEC. 7. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,