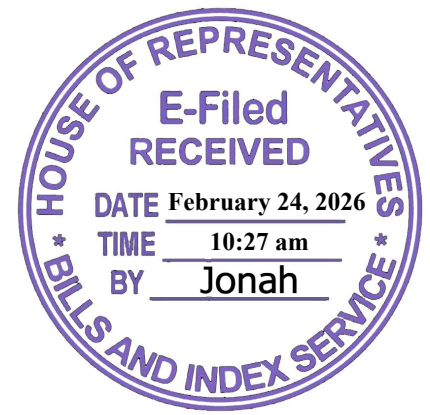


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8030



Introduced by
REPRESENTATIVE FRANZ S. PUMAREN

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Pursuant to Presidential Decree No. 1183, as amended, The Philippine government imposes Philippine travel tax collected from most passengers departing the country. While the travel tax has been historically justified as a revenue source, its administration continues to generate practical burdens for Filipino travelers—particularly due to payment validation issues, documentation requirements, and refund friction for those entitled to exemptions or affected by offloading, rebooking, or cancellations. Public commentary has likewise criticized the tax as burdensome and outdated, particularly as it adds a fixed cost on top of already rising airfare and travel-related charges. These realities are felt most sharply by ordinary Filipino travelers planning family visits, educational trips, medical travel, and time-sensitive international travel, where added fees and procedural uncertainty may discourage travel altogether or force last-minute adjustments.

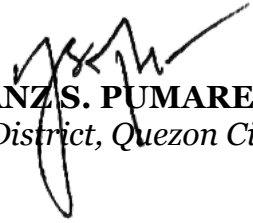
This bill seeks to remove that additional burden by abolishing the travel tax and prohibiting its further collection, while providing a transition mechanism for programs previously funded by travel tax collections through appropriations in the annual GAA. By effectively reducing the travel tax cost to zero, the measure is expected to make international travel more affordable and predictable, lessen transaction friction at the point of departure, and improve the overall ease of travel by removing a fee that is often paid separately or verified through additional documentation. Moreover, a recent Philippine input-output based study reported that eliminating the travel tax could stimulate demand for travel, producing hundreds of thousands of additional trips and a sizable increase in total economic output—effects consistent with the policy logic that lowering travel costs can increase mobility, spending, and tourism-related activity.¹

by easing a direct cost imposed on travelers and simplifying travel-related compliance, the bill promotes more accessible travel planning for Filipinos and supports

¹ <https://businessmirror.com.ph/2026/02/17/scrapping-travel-tax-to-stimulate-economy-study>

broader economic activity linked to tourism, transport, and services, while ensuring continuity of key programs through direct budgetary support.

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



FRANZ S. PUMAREN
3rd District, Quezon City

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
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HOUSE BILL NO. **8030**

Introduced by
REPRESENTATIVE FRANZ S. PUMAREN

AN ACT
ABOLISHING THE TRAVEL TAX

Section 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the "Travel Tax Abolition Act of 2026".

Section 2. Repealing Clause. - The State hereby abolishes the travel tax as imposed under Presidential Decree No. 1183, as amended, and Section 73 of Republic Act No. 9593, otherwise known as the "Tourism Act of 2009". All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules, and regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 3. Prohibition and Refund. - No government agency or private entity shall collect travel taxes upon the effectivity of this Act. For flights scheduled on or after the date of effectivity, the collecting authority shall immediately refund any previously paid travel taxes to the passenger.

Section 4. Budget and Alternative Funding. - To ensure the continuity of programs previously funded by travel tax collections, the national government shall provide the necessary funding for the following agencies through the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA):

1. The Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA) for tourism 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 Culture and the Arts.

Section 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.

Section 6. Separability Clause. - If any part or provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions thereof which are not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Section 7. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least one (1) newspaper of general circulation, whichever comes earlier.

Approved,