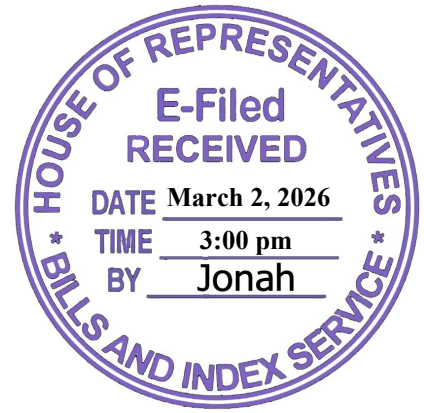


**Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
*Quezon City***

**TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session**

House Bill No. 8198



Introduced by Representative ROLANDO M. VALERIANO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution guarantees every citizen the right to freedom of travel and to choose their place of residence, placing upon the State the duty to uphold and protect this fundamental liberty.

This measure seeks to make travel more accessible to Filipinos by abolishing the travel tax currently being imposed on travelers. At present, international travelers departing from the Philippines already shoulder airline fares, fuel surcharges, and various government-imposed fees. The travel tax, imposed on top of these charges, further increases the total cost of outbound travel in a setting where travel is already expensive.

For many Filipinos, traveling abroad is not a luxury but a necessity for work, business, education, medical treatment, or family obligations. Imposing an additional tax on international travel places unnecessary financial strain on citizens and may undermine the country's competitiveness in an increasingly interconnected global economy. By reducing travel costs, this measure can encourage greater mobility, stimulate tourism, and promote the freer flow of economic activity.

Although the travel tax generates funds for certain tourism-related programs, its share in overall national revenue is not substantial. Any revenue loss may be offset by increased economic activity resulting from higher travel demand and a more dynamic tourism sector.

Ultimately, this proposal removes an outdated levy that no longer aligns with present economic realities. In doing so, it affirms the State's commitment to protecting freedom of travel, supporting Filipino mobility, strengthening tourism competitiveness, and fostering broader participation in the global economy.

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



ROLANDO M. VALERIANO

Representative
Manila, 2nd District

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
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House Bill No. 8198

Introduced by Representative ROLANDO M. VALERIANO

AN ACT ABOLISHING THE TRAVEL TAX

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

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

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to promote tourism, encourage mobility of Filipino citizens, reduce the financial burden on overseas travel, and enhance the competitiveness of Philippine airports and carriers in the global aviation market. The State recognizes that the imposition of a travel tax increases the cost of outbound travel and may discourage international tourism exchanges, labor mobility, and business travel.

SECTION 3. Prohibition and Refund. – It shall be prohibited for any government agency and private entity to impose and collect travel taxes upon the effectivity of this Act.

Travel Taxes collected by any authorized collecting agency for flights dated on or after the effectivity of this Act shall be refunded by the same agency to the passengers.

SECTION 4. Appropriations. – The amount necessary to fund the programs affected by the abolition of the travel tax shall be included in the annual budget of the concerned agency under the General Appropriations Act (GAA).

SECTION 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act, the Department of Budget and Management and the Department of Tourism, in coordination with relevant agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for its effective implementation.

SECTION 6. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 7. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, order, rules and regulations or parts thereof, inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 8. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,