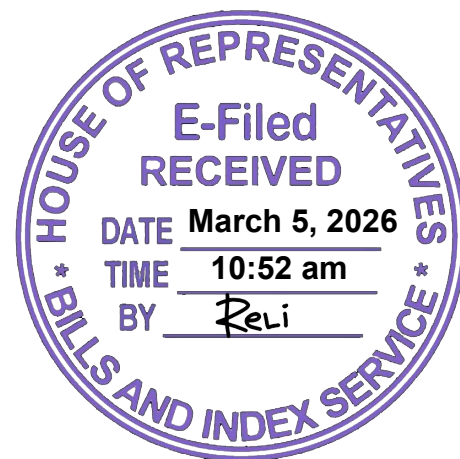


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8297



Introduced by **Representative Ryan S. Recto**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This proposed measure seeks to require that all personnel of tourism establishments be trained with basic first aid training to ensure the sustained growth of the tourism industry by promoting the country as one of the best destinations where tourists are assured of their safety.

Tourism remains a vital pillar and cornerstone of the Philippine economy as it accounts for around 13.2% of our Gross Domestic Product (GDP) and supports around 4.9 million jobs or 13.8% of the labor force in 2024. Research from the ASEAN Macroeconomic Research Office (AMRO) highlights that tourism-centric businesses, particularly in hospitality, yield a higher domestic value-added for every unit of production compared to the cross-sector average. This high efficiency underscores the industry's role as a primary driver for the country's economic resurgence following the pandemic. However, the long-term competitiveness of our tourism sector depends not only on the beauty of our natural wonders but also on the quality of service and the security we provide to those who visit our shores.

According to a December 2025 report from the Department of Tourism (DoT), international visitor arrivals in the Philippines fell by 2.16% in the first 11 months of 2025. Total arrivals dropped to 5.235 million, down from 5.35 million in the same period in 2024. This decline can be largely attributed to the 21% decrease in visitors from South Korea (our top source market) and 16.5% decline in tourists from China.

The competitiveness of our tourism sector is currently challenged by infrastructure bottlenecks, regional competition and a growing perception of uncertainty regarding travel safety and convenience. When visitors perceive a destination as high-risk or under-prepared for emergencies, they opt for regional peers that offer more seamless and secure experiences.

In order to assure strict compliance with the law, this piece of legislation also requires that local government units (LGUs) must first seek a sworn statement from tourism establishments attesting that their personnel have undergone said training before they can renew their business permits. Not only that, but the proposed bill also directs LGUs to conduct regular inspections to ensure that tourism establishments are equipped with first aid kits.

This proposed measure hopes to mitigate the negative impact of external shocks and build a resilient industry that can withstand geopolitical and economic downturns by ensuring that every tourist feels safe and cared for.

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



Ryan S. Recto
Representative
6th District, Batangas

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
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HOUSE BILL NO. 8297

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AN ACT
REQUIRING PERSONNEL OF TOURISM ESTABLISHMENTS, TOURISM-ORIENTED ORGANIZATIONS AND ALL OTHER PERSONS PROVIDING TOURISM-RELATED SERVICES TO UNDERGO BASIC FIRST AID TRAINING

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 “*Tourist Safety Act.*”
2

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State recognizes tourism as an indispensable
4 element of the national economy and an industry of national interest and significance.
5 It is therefore important that the State shall develop the necessary infrastructure and
6 human resources that shall guarantee the promotion of sustainable tourism and the
7 safety of tourists in the country. Towards this end, the State shall ensure that the
8 personnel providing tourism services are equipped with the necessary skills and
9 training to achieve these objectives.
10

11 As used in this Act, “tourism-related services” refer to services rendered to cater
12 to the needs of tourists which include services provided by hotels and restaurants,
13 travel agencies and tour operators, tourist guide services, surfing, scuba diving and
14 other water sports organizations and all other entities providing similar or related
15 services.
16

17 Sec. 3. *First Aid Training Requirement.* – Personnel of tourism establishments,
18 tourism-oriented organizations and all other persons providing tourism-related
19 services are mandated to undergo basic first aid training provided by the Philippine
20 Red Cross (PRC) or other reputable training institutions that shall issue the appropriate
21 training certification for this purpose.
22

23 Sec. 4. *Role of Local Government Units (LGUs).* – In order to ensure strict
24 compliance with the provisions of this Act, the concerned LUs shall require all tourism
25 establishments seeking the renewal of their business permits to submit a sworn

1 statement attesting that their personnel have undergone basic first aid training,
2 attaching thereto the individual training certificates.

3
4 The concerned LUs shall cause the registration of personnel of tourism-oriented
5 organizations and all other persons providing tourism-related services under their
6 jurisdiction, and shall likewise coordinate with the PRC or other reputable training
7 institutions providing first aid training in order that such training be provided to these
8 personnel.

9
10 Sec. 5. *First Aid Kits.* – The concerned LUs shall ensure that tourism
11 establishments, tourism-oriented organizations, and all other persons providing
12 tourism-related services are equipped with first aid kits. Periodic inspections for this
13 purpose shall be conducted by the concerned LGUs.

14
15 Sec. 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within sixty (60) days from the
16 effectivity of this Act, the Department of Tourism, in coordination with concerned
17 agencies of the government, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for
18 the proper implementation of this Act.

19
20 Sec. 7. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared
21 unconstitutional or invalid, such parts or portions not affected thereby shall remain in
22 full force and effect.

23
24 Sec. 8. *Repealing Clause.* –All laws, rules, regulations, executive orders,
25 presidential decrees and other issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with
26 this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

27
28 Sec. 9. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its
29 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation or in the Official
30 Gazette.

31
32 *Approved,*