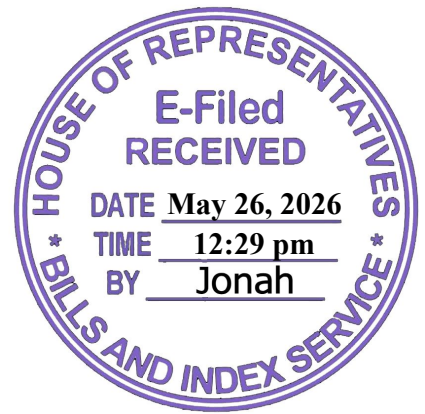


TWENTIETH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 9440



Introduced by **REP. PATRICIA C. CALDERON**, 7th District of Cebu

EXPLANATORY NOTE

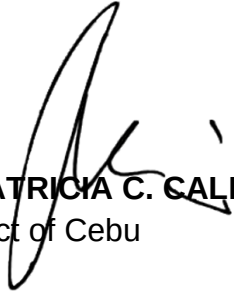
1 The Seventh District of Cebu is rich in natural resources, coastal areas, forests,
2 rivers, and tourism sites that provide livelihood and economic opportunities to its
3 people. However, the district continues to face growing environmental problems such
4 as improper waste disposal, pollution, coastal and watershed degradation, climate
5 change, and environmental hazards.

6 At present, local government units in the district have limited manpower,
7 technical support, and resources to effectively address these environmental concerns.
8 Existing environmental offices and agencies also cover large areas, making it difficult
9 to provide immediate and focused attention to the specific needs of the Seventh
10 District.

11 The creation of a Community Environment and Natural Resources Office
12 (CENRO) in the Municipality of Badian seeks to strengthen environmental protection
13 and management in the district. The proposed office will help improve the enforcement
14 of environmental laws, coordination among local government units and national
15 agencies, protection of natural resources, solid waste management, climate change
16 adaptation, and disaster risk reduction efforts.

17 This measure will also support sustainable tourism, protect the livelihood of
18 local communities, preserve natural resources for future generations, and promote a
19 cleaner, safer, and healthier environment for the people of the Seventh District of
20 Cebu.

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


REP. PATRICIA C. CALDERON
7th District of Cebu

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 9440

Introduced by
Rep. Patricia C. Calderon, 7th District of Cebu

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

3 **AN ACT CREATING A COMMUNITY ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL**
4 **RESOURCES OFFICE (CENRO) IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BADIAN, PROVINCE**
5 **OF CEBU, TO CATER TO ENVIRONMENTAL AND NATURAL RESOURCES**
6 **MATTERS IN THE 7TH DISTRICT OF CEBU, PROVIDING FOR ITS MANDATE,**
7 **POWERS, FUNCTIONS, ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE, APPROPRIATIONS,**
8 **AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

11 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** - This Act shall be known as the “**Community Environment**
12 **and Natural Resources Office for the Seventh District of Cebu Act.**”
13

14 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to:

- 15 1. Protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology
16 in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature, pursuant to Section 16, Article
17 II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution;
- 18 2. Promote sustainable development, environmental integrity, and the rational and
19 equitable utilization of natural resources;
- 20 3. Strengthen local government units (LGUs), particularly municipalities, as
21 frontliners in environmental protection and natural resources management;
- 22 4. Support and enhance the capacity of the Municipality of Badian and the
23 municipalities within the 7th District of Cebu to efficiently and effectively address
24 environmental concerns within their jurisdiction; and
- 25 5. Encourage coordination among LGUs and national government agencies in
26 addressing environmental issues that transcend local boundaries, particularly
27 those affecting the 7th District of Cebu.

28 **SEC. 3. Creation of the Community Environment and Natural Resources Office**
29 **(CENRO) of the Municipality of Badian.** - There is hereby created a Community

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

Environment and Natural Resources Office (CENRO) in the Municipality of Badian, Province of Cebu, hereinafter referred to as the Office.

The Office shall be a regular, permanent office stationed in the Municipality of Badian and shall serve as the primary office responsible for the formulation, implementation, coordination, and monitoring of environmental and natural resources management programs, projects, and activities within the 7th District of Cebu, and for such other functions as may be provided in this Act.

SEC. 4. Mandate and General Functions. - The CENRO of the 7th District of Cebu shall have the following general mandate and functions:

1. Formulate and recommend to the LGU concerned the policies, plans, programs, and strategies for environmental protection, preservation, rehabilitation, and sustainable natural resources management within the 7th District of Cebu;
2. Implement and assist in the enforcement of environmental laws, rules, and regulations, and local ordinances within the territorial jurisdiction of Cebu's 7th District, in coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and other competent agencies;
3. Coordinate and collaborate, as may be allowed by law, with national government agencies, the Provincial Government of Cebu, and neighboring LGUs within the 7th District of Cebu on environmental programs and projects of mutual concern; and
4. Undertake such other related functions as may be necessary to achieve the objectives of this Act.

SEC. 5. Specific Powers and Functions. - The Office shall have the following specific powers and functions, without prejudice to other functions that may be assigned by law or ordinance:

(a) Planning and Policy Development

1. Prepare, update, and implement an Environmental Management Plan covering, among others, solid waste management, air and water quality, land use and green spaces, climate change adaptation and mitigation, disaster risk reduction as it relates to the environment, and coastal and marine resources management;
2. Recommend to the Sangguniang Bayan concerned the enactment of ordinances and resolutions on environmental protection, conservation, rehabilitation, and sustainable use of natural resources; and
3. Ensure that environmental considerations are integrated into the Local Government Unit (LGU) development plans, land use plans, and investment programs.

(b) Implementation, Regulation, and Enforcement

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

1. Assist in the enforcement of, and promote compliance with, national environmental laws including, but not limited to, Republic Act No. 9003 (Ecological Solid Waste Management Act), Republic Act No. 8749 (Philippine Clean Air Act), Republic Act No. 9275 (Philippine Clean Water Act), Republic Act No. 9729 (Climate Change Act), and related laws and regulations;
2. Conduct regular monitoring and inspections of activities, projects, and establishments within the Municipality or City that may affect environmental quality and natural resources, in coordination with appropriate national and local authorities; and
3. Recommend appropriate administrative or legal actions against violators of environmental laws and local ordinances, subject to applicable procedures and due process.

(c) Solid Waste Management

1. Lead the formulation, updating, and implementation of the Municipality's Solid Waste Management Plan in accordance with Republic Act No. 9003;
2. Oversee systems of waste segregation, collection, recycling, composting, and proper disposal, and the establishment and operation of materials recovery facilities (MRFs), sanitary landfills, or other appropriate facilities; and
3. Promote community-based and barangay-level solid waste management initiatives.

(d) Natural Resources and Ecosystems Management

1. Plan and implement programs for the protection, rehabilitation, and sustainable management of forests, watersheds, rivers, wetlands, coastal and marine ecosystems, and other critical habitats within the 7th District of Cebu;
2. Coordinate tree-growing, reforestation, urban greening, and mangrove rehabilitation initiatives; and
3. Support biodiversity conservation activities in coordination with relevant agencies, LGUs, academic institutions, and civil society organizations.

(e) Environmental Education, Advocacy, and Community Participation

1. Conduct and support environmental awareness campaigns, trainings, and capacity-building for schools, barangays, civil society, and the private sector;
2. Develop and disseminate Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials on environmental laws, policies, and best practices; and
3. Promote multi-sectoral partnerships and citizen participation in environmental programs.

(f) Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction (Environment-Related)

1. Integrate climate change adaptation and mitigation considerations into local environmental programs and policies;
2. Coordinate with the City Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office (CDRRMO) and Municipal Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Office

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

- 1 (MDRRMO) on environmental aspects of disaster risk reduction and climate
2 resilience; and
3 3. Develop and implement, in coordination with concerned offices, measures to
4 reduce environmental and climate-related risks.

5 **(g) Coordination with Neighboring LGUs in the 7th District of Cebu**

- 6 1. Coordinate, as may be allowed by law, with neighboring LGUs within the 7th
7 District of Cebu on inter-LGU environmental concerns such as shared
8 watersheds, rivers, air sheds, and coastal and marine areas;
9 2. Participate in district- or province-wide environmental councils, committees, or
10 mechanisms where the LGUs within the 7th District of Cebu are represented;
11 and
12 3. Support initiatives of the Office of the Representative of the 7th District of Cebu
13 and the Provincial Government of Cebu that promote environmental protection
14 and sustainable natural resources management.

15 **(h) Research, Monitoring, and Data Management**

- 16 1. Maintain a database of environmental indicators, projects, programs, and
17 activities within the 7th District of Cebu;
18 2. Conduct or support research and baseline assessments on environmental
19 quality and natural resources; and
20 3. Prepare periodic environmental status reports for submission to the LGUs
21 concerned and other concerned bodies.

22 **SEC. 6. Organizational Structure and Personnel.**

23 **(a) City Environment and Natural Resources Officer.**

24 There is hereby created the position of City Environment and Natural Resources
25 Officer (City ENRO) who shall be the head of the Office.

- 26 1. The City ENRO shall be appointed in accordance with civil service laws, rules,
27 and regulations;
28 2. The City ENRO shall possess education, experience, and training in the fields
29 of environment, natural resources, forestry, ecology, environmental planning,
30 engineering, or related disciplines, as may be provided in the implementing
31 rules and regulations (IRR) of this Act and by the Civil Service Commission
32 (CSC).

33 **(b) Staff and Divisions.** - The Office shall be composed of such divisions, units, and
34 staff as may be necessary for the effective and efficient performance of its functions,
35 including but not limited to:

- 36 1. Planning, Research and Policy Division;
37 2. Solid Waste Management Division;
38 3. Environmental Protection and Enforcement Division;

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City

- 1 4. Natural Resources and Coastal Management Division; and
2 5. Administrative and Support Services Division.

3 The plantilla of positions, including their qualifications, salary grades, and job
4 descriptions, shall be determined by the Secretary of DENR, subject to existing laws,
5 rules, and regulations, and in consultation with the Department of Budget and
6 Management (DBM) and the Civil Service Commission (CSC).

7 **SEC. 7. Appropriations.** - The Secretary of the Department of Environment and
8 Natural Resources shall include in the Department's program the operationalization of
9 the CENRO office for the 7th District of Cebu to be stationed at the Municipality of
10 Badian, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations
11 Act.

12
13 **SEC. 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - Within ninety (90) days from the
14 effectivity of this Act, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR),
15 in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), the
16 DBM, and the CSC, shall promulgate the necessary Implementing Rules and
17 Regulations (IRR) to effectively carry out the provisions of this Act.

18
19 **SEC. 9. Separability Clause.** - If any provision of this Act is declared
20 unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall
21 continue to be in full force and effect.

22
23 **SEC. 10. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and
24 regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof that are inconsistent with the
25 provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

26
27 **SEC. 11. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
28 in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

29
30 *Approved,*

31