

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 11038



Introduced by:

HON. CHRISTOPHERSON “COCO” M. YAP

AN ACT
CONVERTING THE MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY SATELLITE OFFICE IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF SOGOD, PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN LEYTE, INTO AN EXTENSION OFFICE AND TRANSFERRING ITS LOCATION TO THE MUNICIPALITY OF LILOAN, PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN LEYTE, AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Second Legislative District of Southern Leyte consists of coastal municipalities that have a long history of fishing, maritime trade, and participation in the country’s Overseas Employment Program. It is known as the “Gateway to Mindanao,” since both Liloan Ferry Terminal and San Ricardo Port provide passenger and cargo transport to Lipata, Surigao City.

The easing of domestic and international travel restrictions has increased inter-island transport and maritime activity. This development has underscored the need to bring government maritime services closer to the public, vessel owners and operators, maritime education and training institutions, and Filipino seafarers.

The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) is the government agency responsible for the regulation, promotion, and development of the Philippine maritime industry. Its functions include the registration and licensing of vessels and the implementation of applicable laws, rules, and standards relating to maritime safety, maritime education and training, and the certification of seafarers. MARINA’s regulatory powers and functions have been strengthened by existing law, including the transfer to MARINA of powers relating to the issuance, validation, verification, correction, revocation, or

cancellation of certificates and other documentary evidence required of seafarers under the applicable provisions of Republic Act No. 10635.

At present, MARINA maintains an extension office in Maasin City and a satellite office in the Municipality of Sogod, Province of Southern Leyte. This bill seeks to convert the Sogod satellite office into an extension office and transfer its location to the Municipality of Liloan.

Liloan is strategically located within the Second Legislative District of Southern Leyte. It is home to the Liloan Ferry Terminal, which connects the Luzon-Visayas segment of the Pan-Philippine Highway with Mindanao. It is also in proximity to the Port of San Ricardo and the Port of Sogod and is accessible to the municipalities of Silago, Hinunangan, Hinundayan, Anahawan, San Juan, and Saint Bernard.

The transfer and conversion of the office will improve access to vessel registration, licensing, inspection, maritime safety, seafarer certification, and related MARINA services. It will also enable the Authority to more effectively monitor maritime transport operations and maritime education and training activities within its area of responsibility.

The measure is consistent with the policy of strengthening MARINA's regional and local presence. Similar legislation has converted MARINA satellite offices into extension offices in Maasin City, Southern Leyte, and Calbayog City, Samar.

In view of the foregoing, **ug sa ngalan sa SERBISYONG TINUORAY**, the undersigned respectfully requests the immediate passage of this measure.


CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP
Representative, Second District of Southern Leyte

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

SECTION 1. Conversion and Transfer. — The existing Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) Satellite Office located in the Municipality of Sogod, Province of Southern Leyte, is hereby converted into a regular MARINA Extension Office and its location is hereby transferred to the Municipality of Liloan, Province of Southern Leyte.

The MARINA Extension Office in Liloan shall provide services to the residents, vessel owners and operators, maritime education and training institutions, and seafarers of the Province of Southern Leyte and, subject to the determination of MARINA, other nearby provinces and municipalities.

SECTION 2. Powers and Functions. — The MARINA Extension Office in Liloan shall perform such powers, functions, and duties as may be delegated by the MARINA Administrator pursuant to existing laws, rules, and regulations.

It shall assist in the delivery of MARINA services, including vessel registration and licensing, maritime safety regulation, inspection, seafarer certification, and other related services within its area of responsibility.

SECTION 3. Operationalization. — The MARINA Administrator shall immediately include in the programs of the Authority the operationalization of the MARINA Extension Office in Liloan, Province of Southern Leyte.

For this purpose, MARINA shall determine the appropriate organizational structure, staffing pattern, personnel complement, equipment, facilities, and other requirements of the Extension Office, subject to existing laws, rules, and regulations and to the approval of the appropriate government agencies.

SECTION 4. Transfer of Personnel, Properties, and Records. — Upon the operationalization of the MARINA Extension Office in Liloan, the personnel, records, equipment, supplies, appropriations, funds, and other properties of the MARINA Satellite Office in Sogod may be transferred, reallocated, or otherwise appropriately utilized for the Extension Office, subject to existing civil service, budgeting, accounting, auditing, and other applicable laws, rules, and regulations.

No personnel shall be transferred or separated except in accordance with existing laws and applicable civil service rules and regulations.

SEC. 5. Appropriations. — The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of MARINA. Thereafter, the funding necessary for the continued operation and maintenance of the MARINA Extension Office in Liloan shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the MARINA Administrator shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for its effective implementation.

SEC. 7. Separability Clause. — If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 8. Repealing Clause. — All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, and other issuances, or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 9. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,