



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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **11501**



Introduced by Representative **MARCELINO C. LIBANAN**

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A BRIDGE OR
UNDERSEA TUNNEL LINKING THE PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN
LEYTE AND THE PROVINCE OF BOHOL, AND APPROPRIATING
FUNDS THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Southern Leyte and Bohol are linked by sea, but travel and the movement of goods between them remain dependent on maritime crossings. A permanent link would improve access between Eastern and Central Visayas and create new opportunities for trade, tourism, and investment. It would also provide another transport option when sea crossings are unavailable.

This bill provides for the construction of a bridge or undersea tunnel following a proposed alignment from Maasin City, Southern Leyte, through Lapinig Island, Bohol to Ubay, Bohol. It would establish a continuous land route across the two water crossings, subject to the results of feasibility and engineering studies.

Lapinig Island serves as an intermediate point in the proposed route. Accordingly, the project must consider the connections between Maasin City and Lapinig Island, between Lapinig Island and Ubay, and across the island itself. Examining these sections together is necessary to ensure that the completed link functions as one practical transport corridor.

The proposed link would make travel between Southern Leyte and Bohol easier, provide a more direct route for the movement of goods, and improve access to essential services. It could also strengthen disaster response by giving emergency

personnel, equipment, and relief supplies another route between the two provinces when conditions permit.

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

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MARCELINO C. LIBANAN

Representative

4Ps Partylist



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

SECTION 1. There shall be constructed under the supervision of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) an undersea tunnel or bridge, from the Province of Southern Leyte to the Province of Bohol, including access roads thereto.

SECTION 2. The funding for the feasibility study and engineering design shall be included in the General Appropriations Act (GAA), and shall be undertaken by a qualified international consulting firm with proven experience in similar long-span bridge or undersea tunnel projects. To uphold the quality, credibility, and global competitiveness of the outputs, the study should be financed through grant funding or technical assistance from development partners. Thereafter, the Secretary of the DPWH shall include in the Department's program the construction of said undersea tunnel or bridge, the funding of which shall be included in the annual GAA.

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,