



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 8981

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BY REPRESENTATIVES MACAPAGAL-ARROYO, VARGAS, NUNEZ-MALANYAON, GOMEZ, VELASCO, AUMENTADO, KHO, ORTEGA (V.N.), LABADLABAD, VELASCO-CATERA, GO (M.), PINEDA, ANTONIO, UYBARRETA, BELARO, ZAMORA (M.C.), AGGABAO, TEJADA, SANDOVAL, SY-ALVARADO, AMANTE, DUAVIT, COJUANGCO, LOBREGAT, SAMBAR, CALIXTO-RUBIANO, AMATONG, MANALO, UY (J.), JAVIER, YAP (V.), VILLANUEVA, MARIÑO, RAMIREZ-SATO, TAN (A.), BELMONTE (R.), TAMBUNTING, NIETO, ABUEG, DE VENECIA, DALIPE, SUANSING (H.), SUANSING (E.), OLIVAREZ AND SALCEDA, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1158

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AN ACT ESTABLISHING AN INTERGOVERNMENTAL TASK FORCE FOR THE PROTECTION AND ASSISTANCE OF TOURISTS

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

1           SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the  
2 “Tourist Protection and Assistance Act”.

3           SEC. 2. *Declaration of Principles.* – The State recognizes  
4 tourism as a major contributor to the country’s economic growth.  
5 Towards this end, the State shall endeavor to enact measures for  
6 the protection and assistance of tourists, both domestic and foreign,  
7 during their travel around the country.

8           SEC. 3. *Tourist Protection and Assistance Task Force.* –  
9 Within nine (9) months after the approval of this Act, the Secretary  
10 of the Department of Tourism (DOT) shall establish an

1 intergovernmental task force to be known as the "Tourist Protection  
2 and Assistance Task Force", hereinafter referred to as the "Task  
3 Force".

4 It shall be the duty of the Task Force to facilitate, through the  
5 concerned national government agencies and local government units  
6 (LGUs), the following:

7 (a) Adoption of uniform standards on signage for use  
8 throughout the Philippines in order to facilitate travel in the  
9 country;

10 (b) Provision of directional signages in tourism facilities and  
11 destinations, including airports, seaports, land border crossings,  
12 highways, and bus, train, and other public transit locations;

13 (c) Preparation and dissemination of multilingual travel and  
14 tourism information and promotional materials;

15 (d) Establishment of a toll-free telephone assistance system  
16 run by multilingual operators to provide assistance to domestic and  
17 foreign tourists;

18 (e) Coordination with LGUs the establishment of tourist  
19 help desks in identified tourist destinations; and

20 (f) Institution of measures to prevent unlawful acts or  
21 harassment committed on tourists.

22 *SEC. 4. Composition of the Task Force.* - The Task Force  
23 shall be composed of the following:

24 (a) Secretary of the DOT or the duly designated  
25 representative, as Chairperson;

26 (b) Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local  
27 Government or the duly designated representative, as Vice  
28 Chairperson;

1 (c) Secretary of the Department of Transportation or the  
2 duly designated representative;

3 (d) Secretary of the Department of Public Works and  
4 Highways or the duly designated representative;

5 (e) Secretary of the Department of Justice or the duly  
6 designated representative;

7 (f) Director General of the Philippine National Police or the  
8 duly designated representative;

9 (g) A representative from the Road Board of the Philippines;  
10 and

11 (h) Such other representatives of other government agencies  
12 and private sector entities as may be determined to be appropriate  
13 to the mission of the Task Force by the Chairperson, as members.

14 The Task Force shall meet whenever necessary.

15 SEC. 5. *Funding.* - The amount necessary to cover the  
16 expenses for the operation of the Task Force shall be charged  
17 against the existing appropriation of the DOT as contained in the  
18 annual General Appropriations Act.

19 Funds for the implementation of the programs and projects  
20 that shall be approved by the Task Force shall be included in the  
21 appropriation of the implementing agencies concerned. For LGUs,  
22 funding shall be taken from their internal revenue allotment and  
23 other internally generated income.

24 SEC. 6. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part hereof  
25 is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the  
26 provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

27 SEC. 7. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, presidential decrees or  
28 issuances, executive orders, letters of instruction, administrative  
29 orders, rules or regulations contrary to or inconsistent with the

1 provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified or amended  
2 accordingly.

3       SEC. 8. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15)  
4 days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of  
5 general circulation.

Approved,

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