



## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 5908

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BY REPRESENTATIVES PICHAAY, BANAAG AND SALCEDA, PER COMMITTEE  
REPORT NO. 2046

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AN ACT DECLARING THE SUBA CAVES IN BARANGAY TINA,  
MUNICIPALITY OF SAN MIGUEL, PROVINCE OF SURIGAO  
DEL SUR, AN ARCHÆOLOGICAL SITE AND APPROPRIATING  
FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1           SECTION 1. *Declaration of Suba Caves Complex Archaeological Site.* –  
2           In order to preserve the rich cultural heritage found in Surigao del Sur, the  
3           archaeological areas in Suba Caves located in Barangay Tina, Municipality of  
4           San Miguel, Province of Surigao del Sur, as delineated by the excavations of  
5           the National Museum, are hereby declared an archaeological site to be known  
6           as the “Suba Caves Complex Archacological Site”.

7           SEC. 2. The National Museum shall oversee the protection of the  
8           cultural properties in the Suba Caves Complex Archaeological Site, undertake

1 the necessary interdisciplinary research, and coordinate with the Department of  
2 Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and other concerned government  
3 and nongovernment entities regarding the protection of the natural resources of  
4 the Suba Caves Complex and its development into a major archaeological and  
5 eco-tourism destination in the Caraga Region.

6 The Philippine National Police shall assist the National Museum in  
7 managing and protecting the Suba Caves Complex Archaeological Site  
8 pursuant to the provisions of Republic Act No. 4846, otherwise known as the  
9 “Cultural Properties Preservation and Protection Act”, as amended by  
10 Presidential Decree No. 374, especially in the arrest and apprehension of  
11 treasure hunters and pot hunters.

12 SEC. 3. All excavations in the Suba Caves Complex Archaeological  
13 Site shall be under the control and supervision of the National Museum, which  
14 shall conserve and preserve the artifacts unearthed in the site to their original  
15 and intrinsic value.

16 To promote public awareness on the cultural value of the site, the  
17 National Museum shall share with the local communities in the province the  
18 results of the archaeological researches undertaken in the area through  
19 museum-type exhibitions, displays and preliminary interpretations of the  
20 archaeological materials recovered.

21 SEC. 4. The Suba Caves Complex Archaeological Site shall be subject  
22 to assessment of its biological, geological and hydrological features or  
23 resources, and likewise shall be managed and protected from deforestation,  
24 denudation or collapse pursuant to Republic Act No. 9072, otherwise known as

1 the “National Cavés and Cave Resources Management and Protection Act” and  
2 its implementing rules and regulations.

3         SEC. 5. *Penalties.* – Anyone caught exploring, excavating or found to  
4 be in possession of excavated cultural properties from the Suba Caves  
5 Complex Archaeological Site without proper permit from the National  
6 Museum shall be considered to have violated this Act, and shall be subject to  
7 the penal provisions of Presidential Decree No. 374, amending certain sections  
8 of Republic Act No.4846.

9         SEC 6. *Appropriations.* – The Director of the National Museum shall  
10 immediately include in the agency’s program the maintenance and operation of  
11 the Suba Caves Complex Archaeological Site, the funding of which shall be  
12 included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

13         SEC. 7. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after  
14 its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a national newspaper of general  
15 circulation, whichever comes earlier.

Approved,