



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 6072

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BY REPRESENTATIVES DY (F.), GO (E.C.), MADRONA, CHATTO, ANGARA, ALVAREZ (J.), LUISTRO, RILLO, CHAN, AGARAO, ALMARIO, AUMENTADO, MATUGAS, SINGSON (R.), EMANO, GARCIA (M.A.), SALI, HORIBATA, ZAMORA (M.C.), DELOS SANTOS, ABUNDA, LAGON (D.), MANIQUIZ, OUANO-DIZON, TUTOR, BUHAIN, CAGAS, TUPAS, GO (M.), GORRICETA, DALOG, YU (J.V.), CRUZ (R.), GATO, LIMKAICHONG, ESCUDERO, CARI, YU (D.G.), SALVAME, SACDALAN, KHO (R.), LEGARDA, GULLAS, MIGUEL, ALONTE, PLEYTO, GUTIERREZ, MAGSINO, PADIERNOS, GONZALES (A.), FRASCO, HERRERA, ALBANO, BASCUG, CABREDO, CHUNGALAO, COLLANTES, CUARESMA, KHO (O.), LOYOLA, MARIANO-HERNANDEZ, NAVA, OLIVAREZ, PLAZA, RODRIGUEZ (R.), SILVERIO AND SUANSING (M.A.), PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 168

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AN ACT  
IDENTIFYING TOURISM DEVELOPMENT AREAS IN THE PROVINCE OF  
ISABELA, MANDATING SUPPORT FOR TOURISM DEVELOPMENT, AND  
CREATING THE ISABELA TOURISM COUNCIL

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

- 1           **SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State  
2 to promote a tourism industry that is ecologically sustainable, responsible, participative,  
3 culturally sensitive, economically viable and equitably beneficial to local communities. To

1 this end, the State shall endeavor to provide the proper mechanisms and infrastructure for  
2 sustainable tourism development. It shall develop and promote certain areas and sites  
3 identified as tourist destinations or attractions in order to drive and propel inclusive growth  
4 throughout the country.

5 Pursuant thereto, all areas within the Province of Isabela endowed with natural  
6 beauty or historical and cultural significance, with either existing or potential integrated  
7 leisure facilities developed for one or more tourism purpose, shall be considered tourism  
8 development areas (TDAs).

9 **SEC. 2. Identification and Declaration of Tourism Sites.** – The areas in the  
10 Province of Isabela that have potential for tourism shall be declared as ecotourism, cultural  
11 heritage tourism, health and wellness tourism, general leisure tourism, or mixed- use  
12 tourism sites after consultation with the Department of Tourism (DOT): *Provided*, That  
13 areas in environmentally protected areas shall not be declared tourism sites without  
14 consultation with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

15 The survey and verification of the areas shall be conducted by the National  
16 Mapping and Resource Information Authority, in coordination with the provincial  
17 government of Isabela and local government units (LGUs) of identified tourism sites.

18 **SEC. 3. Isabela Tourism Council.** – There is hereby created the Isabela Tourism  
19 Council, hereinafter referred to as Council, which shall be the primary policy-making,  
20 planning and coordinating body in the development of tourism in the Province of Isabela  
21 and the administration of tourism sites therein. It shall be composed of the following  
22 members:

- 23 a) Provincial Governor of Isabela, as Chairperson;  
24 b) Municipal Mayors of all the municipalities and cities of the Province of Isabela,  
25 who shall elect from among themselves the Vice-chairperson;

- 1 c) Member of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Isabela, duly designated by such  
2 body; and
- 3 d) Two (2) representatives from the private sector, appointed by the Chairperson of  
4 the Council, who shall serve for a period of two (2) years.

5 The provincial government of Isabela shall provide a Secretariat for the Council  
6 including the funding necessary to cover expenses for the performance of its official  
7 functions and activities.

8 **SEC. 4. *Functions of the Council.*** – The Council shall have the following  
9 functions:

- 10 a) Identify and declare areas as tourism sites;
- 11 b) Formulate programs and recommendations and manage local resources and funds  
12 to develop local tourism facilities and attractions;
- 13 c) Assist in the regulation and supervision of tourism-oriented establishments, thereby  
14 ensuring wholesome and clean tourism activities;
- 15 d) Assist in monitoring the implementation of the Local Government Code on the  
16 licensing of tourism establishments in the locality to ascertain safe and enjoyable  
17 stay of travelers;
- 18 e) Strictly enforce health and sanitary standards in public restrooms frequented by  
19 public utility vehicles and tourist transport services, i.e., gasoline stations and  
20 restaurants along main highways and bus stops; and
- 21 f) Perform any other duties in accordance with the guidelines issued by the  
22 Department of the Interior and Local Government.

23 **SEC. 5. *Isabela Tourism Development Plan.*** – The Council, in coordination with  
24 the provincial government of Isabela, LGUs of identified tourism sites, DOT, DENR and  
25 concerned agencies of the government, prepare a tourism development plan for the  
26 Province of Isabela. It shall delineate well defined geographic areas within the tourism

1 sites and coordinate the integrated development of these sites for the optimal use of natural  
2 assets and attractions, as well as of existing facilities: *Provided*, That said development  
3 plan shall ensure the preservation of the ecological balance and natural beauty of the areas:  
4 *Provided, further*, That the implementation of the tourism development plan shall be  
5 included in the respective budgets of the municipal governments of identified tourism sites.

6 **SEC. 6. *Role of the DOT.*** – The DOT shall assist the Council and concerned  
7 LGUs in the implementation of the tourism development plan by providing technical  
8 assistance in tourism capacity building. It shall also include the Province of Isabela in its  
9 national and regional tourism promotion programs.

10 **SEC. 7. *Appropriations.*** – The funding for the implementation of this Act shall be  
11 included in the respective annual budgets of the municipal governments of identified  
12 tourism sites. The DOT may augment such allocation with internally-generated funds.

13 **SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty (60) days from the  
14 effectivity of this Act, the Council, in consultation with concerned LGUs, DOT, DENR,  
15 Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of Transportation, National  
16 Economic and Development Authority and other concerned agencies of the government,  
17 promulgate rules and regulations to implement this Act.

18 **SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act shall be declared  
19 unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full  
20 force and effect.

21 **SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, rules, regulations, executive orders,  
22 proclamations, presidential decrees and other issuances inconsistent with any of the  
23 provisions of this Act are hereby deemed repealed or amended accordingly.

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

Approved,