



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

Seventeenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **3385**

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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Introduced by Honorable Roger G. Mercado

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The internet age has greatly contributed to the international exposure of Southern Leyte as a world class tourist destination. Everybody can expect that economic development pushed by the tourism industry will soon follow.

However, the expected economic development has not taken off due to lack of infrastructure. To address this issue, it is essential for Southern Leyte to be declared as a tourist zone. In this manner, the appropriate national government agencies can work together to speed up the infrastructure development of Southern Leyte.

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

ROGER G. MERCADO

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**AN ACT DECLARING THE PROVINCE OF SOUTHERN LEYTE A TOURISM ZONE,
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND OTHER PURPOSES**

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

Assembled:

1 SECTION 1. The Province of Southern Leyte is hereby declared a tourism
2 zone. As such, it shall be accorded priority development by the Department of Tourism
3 (DOT), the Department of Public Works and Highways and shall be subject to the rules
4 and regulations governing the development of tourist zones.

5
6 SECTION 2. The province of Southern Leyte is rich with small islands,
7 waterfalls, beaches and sea and mountain resources; historical and natural landmarks;
8 indigenous communities; and other Areas of interest of the ecotourism industry.

9
10 SECTION 3. The Department of Tourism (DOT) in coordination with the
11 Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority and other concerned agencies of
12 the government, shall prepare the necessary tourism spot development plan, providing

1 for their development and maintenance, including improvement and restoration of
2 sites, where appropriate, in conformity with set standards, construction of hotels,
3 resorts, restaurants, recreational facilities and other appropriate facilities and
4 infrastructure : *Provided*, That said development plan shall ensure the preservation of
5 the ecological balance and natural beauty of the area.
6

7 SECTION 4. The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), in
8 coordination with the DOT, shall set forth in place the necessary construction and/or
9 improvement of roads and other infrastructure upon the promulgation of this Act and
10 incorporate in it its infrastructure program.
11

12 SECTION 5. The DOT shall take immediate steps to implement the
13 development plan and incorporate it in the Department's overall tourism development
14 program for the ensuing year. The DOT shall likewise promulgate the necessary rules
15 and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act.
16

17 SECTION 6. The Secretary of DOT and the Secretary of DPWH shall include
18 their respective Department's program the implementation of this Act, the funding of
19 which shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act and/or charged
20 against the internally generated funds of the DOT.
21

22 SECTION 7. All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and
23 regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with any of the provisions of this Act
24 shall be deemed repealed or modified accordingly.
25

26 SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete
27 publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.
28

29 Approved.
30