

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 94**



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Introduced by: **REP. EDGAR MARY S. SARMIENTO**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Fisheries, aquaculture, and maritime transportation are important sectors in Samar Island. Subsistence fishing communities dot the coast of the island of Samar and fishing provides for the livelihoods of a significant portion of those below the poverty line in the island.

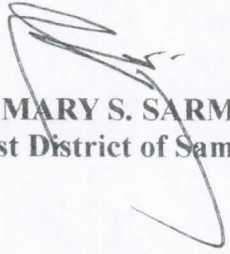
The Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) supervises and regulates the use of vessels, both small-scale fishing boats and large crafts for transport. The agency likewise provides for financial assistance to the industry and technological assistance to fishermen.

While the MARINA in Region VIII has been fulfilling its duty to the best of its abilities, the mere fact that its regional office is located in Tacloban City, Leyte makes it difficult for residents of Samar Island to consult the agency, request for assistance, and comply with its regulations.

In light of this difficulty, this bill, which was first filed during the 17th Congress and docketed then as House Bill no. 4719, seeks to expand the capacity of the MARINA satellite office in Calbayog City, Samar Province to act as a sub-regional hub and address the needs of the residents of Samar Island by converting it to an extension office and providing the necessary funds and personnel.

Furthermore, the Secretary of Transportation and the MARINA are authorized under this bill, for a limited period, to reorganize the offices within Region VIII to deliver efficient services to both islands. For instance, the MARINA may see fit to subdivide its services in the region to provide for two regional hubs: Region VIII-A for Leyte Island and Biliran Province; and Region VIII-B for Samar Island.

For the aforementioned reasons, the undersigned submits this bill for the consideration of this august body.



**EDGAR MARY S. SARMIENTO**  
**First District of Samar**

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**AN ACT CONVERTING THE SATELLITE OFFICE OF THE MARITIME  
INDUSTRY AUTHORITY LOCATED IN CALBAYOG CITY, PROVINCE OF  
SAMAR INTO AN EXTENSION OFFICE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS  
THEREFOR**

1        *Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representative of the Philippines in*  
2        *Congress assembled:*

3  
4        **SECTION 1.** The existing Maritime Industry Authority (MARINA) Satellite Office  
5        in Calbayog City, Province of Samar is hereby converted into a regular MARINA Extension  
6        Office. The extension office shall serve as the sub-regional hub for the Provinces of Northern  
7        Samar, Samar, and Eastern Samar and shall provide services for the residents of the  
8        aforementioned provinces.

9  
10       **SECTION 2.** The Administrator of MARINA shall include in the Agency's programs  
11       the operationalization of the regular extension office in Calbayog City, the initial funding of  
12       which shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the MARINA Region VIII  
13       located in Tacloban City. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the regular and  
14       continued operation of the MARINA Extension Office shall be included in the annual  
15       General Appropriations Act.

16  
17       **SECTION 3.** The Secretary of Transportation, thru the Administrator of MARINA,  
18       are hereby authorized to reorganize the offices, personnel, funds, and properties of the  
19       MARINA within Region VIII towards the effective and efficient delivery of services for the  
20       residents within the islands of Samar and Leyte. The Secretary of Transportation and the  
21       MARINA shall submit the consolidated reorganization plan and any amendments thereof to  
22       the President of the Philippines for his approval.

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24       The authority granted under this Section may be exercised only until December 31,  
25       2021.

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27       **SECTION 4. Effectivity.** This Act shsall become effective fifteen (15) days after its  
28       publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

29  
30       Approved.