

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

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

**HOUSE BILL NO. 3549**



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Introduced by **HON. RENE L. RELAMPAGOS**  
First District, Bohol

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Tourism is a fast-growing industry in the Philippines. In fact, as of 2013, tourism is being eyed as one of the forerunners for the country's economic growth. It is expected to generate a significant number of local employment opportunities. As such, there is a need to strengthen tourism safeguards set forth in Republic Act No. 9593, otherwise known as the "Tourism Act of 2009."

One of the concerns raised by local government units where tourism is a significant industry is the lack of a permanent position for a tourism officer. Section 42 of RA. 9593 explicitly mandates that a permanent position for tourism officers be created in local government units where tourism is a significant industry. However, Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the "Local Government Code of 1991," contains no such provision in its exclusive list of officers for every local government unit.

The lack of a specific amendatory clause in RA. 9593 resulted in the failure to establish a permanent position for tourism officers despite the need therefor, as stated by local government units. The proposed legislation intends to address this issue by amending the relevant provisions of RA. 7160. The present bill will promote the growth of the tourism industry by strengthening grass-root regulation and promotion of tourism in the country.

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

  
**RENE LOPEZ RELAMPAGOS**

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**AN ACT**  
**AMENDING SECTIONS 443, 454, and 463 OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7160,**  
**OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF 1991"**

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

SECTION 1. Sections 443 of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the "Local Government Code of 1991" is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 443. Officials of the Municipal Government.

(a) There shall be in each municipality a municipal mayor, a municipal vice mayor, Sangguniang Bayan members, a secretary to the Sangguniang Bayan, a municipal treasurer, a municipal assessor, a municipal accountant a municipal budget officer, a municipal planning and development coordinator, a municipal engineer/building official a municipal health officer, and a municipal civil registrar.

IN MUNICIPALITIES WHERE TOURISM IS A SIGNIFICANT INDUSTRY, A TOURISM OFFICER SHALL ALSO BE APPOINTED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE QUALIFICATIONS SET FORTH IN REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9593, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "TOURISM ACT OF 2009."

SEC. 2 Sections 454 of the Local Government Code of 1991 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 454. Officials of the City Government.

(a) There shall be in each city a mayor, vice mayor, Sangguniang Panlungsod members, a secretary to the Sangguniang Panlungsod, a city treasurer, a city assessor, a city accountant, a city budget

officer, a city planning and development coordinator, a city engineer, a city health officer, a city civil registrar, a city administrator, a city legal officer, a city veterinarian, a city social welfare and development officer, and a city general services officer.

IN CITIES WHERE TOURISM IS A SIGNIFICANT INDUSTRY, A TOURISM OFFICER SHALL ALSO BE APPOINTED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE QUALIFICATIONS SET FORTH IN REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9593, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "TOURISM ACT OF 2009."

SEC. 3. Sections 463 of the Local Government Code of 1991 is hereby amended to read as follows:

Sec. 463. Officials of the Provincial Government.

(a) There shall be in each province a governor, a vice governor, members of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, a secretary to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan, a provincial treasurer, a provincial assessor, a provincial accountant, a provincial engineer, a provincial budget officer, a provincial planning and development coordinator, a provincial legal officer, a provincial administrator, a provincial health officer, a provincial social welfare and development officer, a provincial general services officer, a provincial agriculturist, and a provincial veterinarian.

IN PROVINCES WHERE TOURISM IS A SIGNIFICANT INDUSTRY, A TOURISM OFFICER SHALL ALSO BE APPOINTED, IN ACCORDANCE TO THE QUALIFICATIONS SET FORTH IN REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9593, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "TOURISM ACT OF 2009."

SEC. 4. Implementing Agency. The Department of Interior and Local Governance (DILG) in coordination with the Department of Tourism (DOT) shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 5. Repealing Clause. All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules, and regulations, or portions thereof, inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 6. Separability Clause. If any part of provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 7. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,