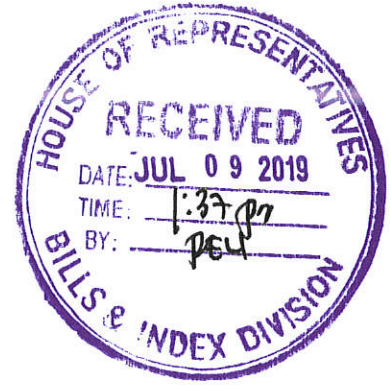


Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session  
**HOUSE BILL NO. 1709**



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Introduced by **HON. LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Solar energy has become quite a popular alternative source for electricity generation in recent years, along with the rise of renewable energy and its developments. It is also one of the more popular renewable energy choices for projects among investors in the country—as of 2011, renewable energy has accounted for over 43% of investment approvals by the Board of Investments of the Department of Trade and Industry. The country, however, still largely relies on oil-based and coal-powered plants, albeit solar energy being a very viable source. Other sources of energy are more expensive and produce more carbon emissions than solar energy. In fact, the Philippines ranked 1<sup>st</sup> in Asia and 5<sup>th</sup> in the world in its potential for solar photovoltaic systems, owing to the country being located near the equator. Utilizing this potential would help progress and improve energy in the country.

This bill proposes to use the country's potential for this energy source and establish the Solar Energy Development Center as an attached agency of the Department of Energy for policy and program coordination. The center aims to be the leading institution on the research of solar energy and existing technologies for its utilization and development. It intends to conduct studies and develop methods on more accessible use of solar energy in the country, as well as be lead policy and programs on the implementation of which. The goal is to ultimately provide better services, such as electricity, at as little cost to the consumers and the environment.

The approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
**LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.**

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AN ACT  
CREATING THE SOLAR ENERGY DEVELOPMENT CENTER AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

**SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the "Solar Energy Development Center Act of 2018".

**SECTION 2. *Solar Energy Development Center.*** – The Solar Energy Development Center (hereinafter referred to as the "Center") is hereby established, which shall be attached to the Department of Energy for policy and program coordination.

**SECTION 3. *Purposes and Objectives.*** – The Center shall have the following purposes and objectives:

- a. To scientifically research solar energy and existing technologies for its utilization and development;
- b. To conduct studies and develop methods on more accessible use of solar energy;
- c. To implement the government program on the allocation, distribution, and sale of solar energy;
- d. To promote the use, research, and introduction to the market of technologies utilizing solar energy; and

- e. To perform such functions related to solar energy development that will redound to the public.

**SECTION 4. *Board of Directors.*** – The powers and functions of the Center shall be vested in a Board of Trustees (hereinafter referred to as the “Board”).

- a. Composition – The Board shall be composed of six (6) members who are natural-born Filipino citizens, at least thirty (30) years of age, and must have recognized competence in the fields of science and technology. The members are as follows:
  - a. Chairperson appointed by the President of the Philippines;
  - b. Two (2) members appointed by the President of the Philippines; and
  - c. Secretary of the Department of Energy, Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), and the Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) as ex-officio members.
- b. Term – The chairman and the two (2) members of the Board shall serve for a term of four (4) years from the date of appointment.

**SECTION 5. *Powers and Duties of the Board of Directors.*** – The Board shall have the following specific powers:

- a. To promulgate rules and regulations, not contrary to laws, which it considers necessary for the effective discharge of its function;
- b. To receive and appropriate all sums as may be provided for the support of the Traffic Center in any manner it may determine, in its discretion, to carry out the purposes and functions of the Center;
- c. To receive in trust legacies, gifts, and donations of real and personal properties of all kinds to administer and dispose of the same when necessary for the benefit of the Center, subject to limitations, directions, and instructions of the donor, if any.

Such donations shall be exempt from the donor's tax and the same shall be considered as allowable deductions from the gross income in the computation of the income tax of the donor, in accordance with the

provisions of the National Internal Revenue Code, as amended:  
Provided, That such donations shall not be disposed of, transferred, or sold;

- d. To establish a research center for the carrying out of its function; and
- e. To exercise such incidental powers as may be necessary to carry out the functions of the Center.

**SECTION 6. *Executive Director.*** – The administration of the Center shall be vested in an Executive Director who shall render full-time service. The Executive Director shall be appointed by the Board. He shall have a term of four (4) years and shall be eligible for reappointment for another term.

In case of vacancy by reason of death, compulsory retirement, resignation, removal for cause, or incapacity of the Executive Director to perform the functions of the Center, the Board shall have the authority to designate an officer-in-charge of the Traffic Center within six (6) months from the date of vacancy pending the appointment of a new Executive Director.

The Executive Director shall exercise the following powers and duties

- a. To direct the management, operations, and administration of the Center;
- b. To appoint such officers and employees, to define their duties, fix their compensation, discipline, and dismiss any for cause, subject to the Civil Service Commission rules and regulations; and
- c. To develop arrangements for institutional capability building with appropriate institutions and agencies, public or private, local or foreign, and to appoint experts or specialists as consultations, researchers, as the case may be.

**SECTION 7. *Appropriations.*** – The amount of one hundred million (Php 100,000,000.00) for the structure, equipment, initial operation, and maintenance of the Solar Energy Development Center shall be sourced from the appropriations for the Department of Energy. Subsequent subsidy for the years thereafter shall be included in the General Appropriations Act.

**SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.*** – Should any provision herein be declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity of the other provisions of this Act.

**SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or other issuances or parts inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 10. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect in fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in one (1) newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

*Approved,*