

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

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2734

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
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Introduced by: **HON. ERIC D. SINGSON**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

The proposed bill aims to declare Pinsal Falls located in the municipality of Santa Maria, province of Ilocos Sur as a tourist destination.

Pinsal Falls lies among the a nice foliage of hills and mountains of Barangay Babal-lasioan in the town of Sta. Maria, Ilocos Sur and is about 45 minutes away by car from Sta. Maria's municipal hall. The falls may also be reached by foot from the nearby town of Pilar, Abra, through a set of stone steps in the mountain by the falls. These steps are regularly used by the residents of Pilar to travel to and from the town of Sta. Maria.

The waterfall measures about eighty five (85) feet-high which cascades down into a narrow gorge. The waters of the falls flow down into not just one but two large natural catch basins at the bottom. Visitors may swim in the clear waters and a hidden cave may be found behind the main waterfall.

There are steps carved into the hillside lead to up to the top of the falls. A number of other interesting natural features of the area may be seen along the way. Salty water drips down from a point in the southern hillside on the steps going up to the pools and at the top of the falls a number of natural pools can be found. There is also a hot spring, a pool that is full of swirling water that is hot enough to boil an egg in about 10 minutes.

Lack of local government funding and inadequate national support has kept Pinsal Falls from reaching its true potential as a tourist destination. However, with the passage of this Act, Pinsal Falls will finally get its recognition and development from the national government that it so richly deserves.

In view of the policy of the State to promote a tourism industry that is ecologically sustainable, responsible, participative, culturally sensitive, economically viable and ethically and socially equitable for local communities as declared in R.A. 9593, otherwise known as the "Tourism Act of 2009", the approval of this bill is earnestly recommended.

  
**ERIC D. SINGSON**

**CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES**  
**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS**  
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**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
House Bill No. 2734

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ERIC D. SINGSON

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**AN ACT DECLARING PINSAL FALLS IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF  
SANTA MARIA, PROVINCE OF ILOCOS SUR AS A TOURIST  
DESTINATION, PROVIDING FOR ITS DEVELOPMENT AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR.**

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

**SECTION 1.** The Pinsal Falls is hereby declared a tourist destination to which it shall be accorded with priority development by the Department of Tourism (DOT) and shall be subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of declared tourist destinations.

**SECTION 2.** The Department of Tourism, in coordination with the local government units and other concerned government agencies shall develop an overall plan involving the construction, installation and maintenance of appropriate infrastructure and facilities to boost tourism in the area of Pinsal Falls: Provided,

that said development plans shall ensure the preservation and conservation of the natural area around Pinsal Falls.

**SECTION 3.** The Department of Tourism shall take immediate steps in implementing the tourism development plan that will suit to the natural characteristic of Pinsal Falls and shall incorporate the same in its overall development plans and programs for national implementation.

**SECTION 4.** It shall be the responsibility of the Department of Tourism to promote Pinsal Falls as a tourism area in all its national , regional and local promotional programs.

**SECTION 5.** The Secretary of Tourism shall issue such rules and regulations as may be necessary to carry out the purpose of this Act.

**SECTION 6.** The amount necessary to carry out the provision of this Act shall be included in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

**SECTION 7.** All laws, rules, regulation, proclamations, executive orders or parts therefor inconsistent with this Act, are hereby amended accordingly.

**SECTION 8.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

*Approved,*