

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

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session**

**5318**

**House Bill No. \_\_\_\_\_**



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**Introduced by Representatives  
ESTRELLITA B. SUANSING AND HORACIO P. SUANSING, JR.**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Tourism is a significant industry in the Philippines. The country's 7,641 islands offer diverse tourism destinations attracting tourists from all over the world. The country attracted more than 6.5 million foreign visitors in 2017. This, in turn, has translated to the industry contributing 12.7% share of the country's gross domestic product in 2018<sup>1</sup>. Employment in the tourism industry has also gone up from an estimated 4.99 Filipinos employed in 2015 to 5.4 million in 2018. It is estimated that these figures will only go up over the years, as tourism is seen as a major growth driver.

Republic Act No. 9593, otherwise known as the Tourism Act of 2009, has been enacted to utilize the tourism industry's potential "as an engine of socio-economic growth and cultural affirmation to generate investment, foreign exchange and employment and to continue to mold an enhanced sense of national pride for all Filipinos."

The Tourism Act of 2009 also put emphasis on the role of local government units as they are in the unique position of capitalizing tourism to spur socio-economic growth of their respective localities. Section 42 of the Tourism Act of 2009 specifically states that "Every province, city or municipality in which tourism is a significant industry shall have a permanent position for a tourism officer." However, most local government units are unable to comply since Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the Local Government Code of 1991, contains no such provision.

This bill, therefore, seeks to harmonize both laws by amending the Local Government Code of 1991 to provide for mandatory appointment of tourism officers in provinces, cities and municipalities where tourism is a significant industry.

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<sup>1</sup> Philippine Statistics Authority: Contribution of Tourism to the Philippine Economy is 12.7 percent in 2018, 06 June 2019

The presence of a dedicated tourism officer will certainly help in the development and promotion of tourism, which will, in turn, generate significant economic benefits for the locality.

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



**REP. ESTRELLITA B. SUANSING**  
1<sup>st</sup> District, Nueva Ecija



**REP. HORACIO P. SUANSING, JR.**  
2<sup>nd</sup> District, Sultan Kudarat

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**AN ACT**  
**PROVIDING FOR MANDATORY APPOINTMENT OF TOURISM OFFICERS**  
**IN PROVINCES, CITIES AND MUNICIPALITIES WHERE TOURISM IS A**  
**SIGNIFICANT INDUSTRY, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT**  
**NO. 7160, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE OF**  
**1991, AS AMENDED**

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

1 **SECTION 1.** Section 443(a) of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as The  
2 Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, is hereby further amended to  
3 read as follows:

4 "SECTION 443. Officials of the Municipal Government.  
5 - xxx

6 "(b) In addition thereto, the mayor may appoint a  
7 municipal administrator, a municipal legal officer, a  
8 municipal agriculturist, a municipal environment and  
9 natural resources officer, a municipal social welfare and  
10 development officer, a municipal architect, [and] a  
11 municipal information officer[.], **AND A MUNICIPAL**  
12 **TOURISM OFFICER: PROVIDED, THAT IN**  
13 **MUNICIPALITIES WHERE TOURISM IS A**  
14 **SIGNIFICANT INDUSTRY, THE APPOINTMENT OF A**  
15 **MUNICIPAL TOURISM OFFICER SHALL BE**  
16 **MANDATORY.**

17 "X X X"

18 **SEC. 2.** Section 454(b) of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as The  
19 Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, is hereby further amended to  
20 read as follows:



1 "SECTION 454. Officials of the City Government. – (a)  
2 xxx

3 "(b) In addition thereto, the city mayor may appoint a  
4 city architect, a city information officer, a city  
5 agriculturist, a city population officer, a city  
6 environment and natural resources officer, [and] a city  
7 cooperatives officer [.] **AND A CITY TOURISM**  
8 **OFFICER PROVIDED, THAT IN CITIES WHERE**  
9 **TOURISM IS A SIGNIFICANT INDUSTRY, THE**  
10 **APPOINTMENT OF A CITY TOURISM OFFICER**  
11 **SHALL BE MANDATORY.**

12 "X X X"

13 **SEC. 3.** Section 463(b) of Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as The  
14 Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, is hereby further amended to  
15 read as follows:

16 "SECTION 463. Officials of the Provincial Government.  
17 – (a) xxx

18 (b) In addition thereto, the government may appoint a  
19 provincial population officer, a provincial natural  
20 resources and environment officer, a provincial  
21 cooperative officer, a provincial architect, [and] a  
22 provincial information officer [.] **AND A PROVINCIAL**  
23 **TOURISM OFFICER: PROVIDED, THAT IN**  
24 **PROVINCES WHERE TOURISM IS A SIGNIFICANT**  
25 **INDUSTRY, THE APPOINTMENT OF A PROVINCIAL**  
26 **TOURISM OFFICER SHALL BE MANDATORY.**

27 "X X X"

28 **SEC. 4.** A new Article shall be inserted in Title V of Republic Act No. 7160,  
29 otherwise known as The Local Government Code of 1991 to be known as  
30 Article XXI on the Tourism Officer, to read as follows:

## 31 **ARTICLE XXI**

### 32 **THE TOURISM OFFICER**

33 **SECTION 490-A. QUALIFICATIONS, POWERS, AND DUTIES. – (A) NO**  
34 **PERSON SHALL BE APPOINTED TOURISM OFFICER UNLESS HE IS A**  
35 **CITIZEN OF THE PHILIPPINES, A RESIDENT OF THE LOCAL**  
36 **GOVERNMENT UNIT CONCERNED, OF GOOD MORAL CHARACTER, HAS**  
37 **NEVER BEEN CONVICTED OF ANY ELECTION OFFENSE OR A CRIME**  
38 **PUNISHABLE BY MORE THAN SIX (6) MONTHS, A HOLDER OF A**

1 RELEVANT BACHELOR'S DEGREE IN TOURISM, BUSINESS, LAW,  
2 ECONOMICS, MARKETING, PUBLIC ADMINISTRATION OR OTHER  
3 RELATED FIELDS FROM A RECOGNIZED COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY,  
4 AND A FIRST GRADE CIVIL SERVICE ELIGIBLE OR ITS EQUIVALENT.  
5 HE/SHE MUST HAVE ACQUIRED AT LEAST FIVE (5) YEARS OF  
6 SUBSTANTIAL WORK EXPERIENCE AND INVOLVEMENT IN THE  
7 TOURISM INDUSTRY EITHER IN THE PRIVATE SECTOR OR  
8 GOVERNMENT. THE APPOINTMENT OF A TOURISM OFFICER IS  
9 MANDATORY FOR THE PROVINCIAL, CITY AND MUNICIPAL  
10 GOVERNMENTS WHERE TOURISM IS A SIGNIFICANT INDUSTRY.

11 LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS WITH EXISTING TOURISM OFFICERS  
12 PRIOR TO THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THIS ACT WILL BE GIVEN THREE  
13 (3) YEARS TO COMPLY WITH THE AFOREMENTIONED REQUIREMENTS.

14 (B) THE TOURISM OFFICER SHALL TAKE CHARGE OF THE OFFICE FOR  
15 TOURISM AND SHALL PRACTICE THE FOLLOWING:

16 (1) PREPARE, IMPLEMENT, COORDINATE, MONITOR, AND UPDATE  
17 LOCAL TOURISM DEVELOPMENT PLANS;

18 (2) ENSURE THE PROPER ENFORCEMENT OF TOURISM STANDARDS,  
19 LAWS, RULES AND REGULATIONS;

20 (3) PROVIDE REGULAR REPORTS ON STATUS OR TOURISM PLANS AND  
21 PROGRAMS, TOURIST ARRIVALS, EMPLOYMENT, OCCUPANCY RATES,  
22 INVESTMENT AND TOURIST PRODUCTS, AMONG OTHERS, TO THE  
23 LOCAL CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND TO THE DEPARTMENT OF TOURISM  
24 (DOT);

25 (4) COORDINATE WITH THE DOT AND ITS ATTACHED AGENCIES, AS  
26 WELL AS CORPORATIONS AND PRIVATE ENTITIES, IN REGARD TO THE  
27 DEVELOPMENT AND PROMOTION OF TOURISM IN THE LOCALITY; AND

28 (5) ESTABLISH PARTNERSHIP WITH LOCAL AGENCIES AND THE  
29 PRIVATE SECTOR IN PROMOTING THE TOURISM OF THEIR  
30 CONCERNED MUNICIPALITIES, CITIES, AND PROVINCES NATIONWIDE  
31 AND GLOBALLY.

32 (C) EXERCISE SUCH OTHER POWERS AND PERFORM SUCH OTHER  
33 DUTIES AND FUNCTIONS AS MAY BE PRESCRIBED BY LAW OR  
34 ORDINANCE.

35 **SEC. 5. Separability Clause.** – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or  
36 unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in  
37 force and effect.

1 **SEC. 6. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations  
2 contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed,  
3 amended or modified accordingly.

4 **SEC. 7. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
5 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,