EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Tourism Sector has been a significant contributor in the Philippine Economy. In recognition of this contribution, Republic Act No. 9593, otherwise known as “The Tourism Act of 2009,” was enacted. In the said law, the State declared tourism as an indispensible element of the national economy and an industry of national interest and importance, which must be harnessed as an engine of socioeconomic 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.

Section 42 of Republic Act No. 9593 requires that every province, city or municipality in which tourism is a significant industry shall have a permanent position for a tourism officer. However, many of the local government units still do not have permanent plantilla positions for these officers. Further, the Local Government Code does not provide for a tourism officer in its enumeration of required officials in the local government units.

This bill proposes to amend Republic Act No. 7160, otherwise known as the “Local Government Code of 1991”, to include a tourism officer among its permanent officials in local government units where tourism is a significant industry. This will ensure that the spirit of The Tourism Act of 2009 is complied with. A permanent tourism officer will certainly strengthen and promote the growth of the tourism industry in the country.

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

SOL ARAGONES
3RD District, Laguna

MARLYN B. ALONTE
Lone District of Biñan
Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 8665

Introduced by Representative Sol Aragones and Marilyn B. Alonte

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 House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress
assembled:

SECTION 1. Section 443 of Republic Act No. 7160. – Section 443 of Republic Act No. 7160 shall be amended to read as follows:

“Section 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.”

(b) xxx
(c) xxx
(d) xxx
(e) xxx
SECTION 2. Section 454 of Republic Act No. 7160. – Section 454 of Republic Act No. 7160 shall be amended to read as follows:

Section 454. Officials of the City Government. –

(a) There shall be in each city a mayor, a 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.”

(b) xxx

(c) xxx

(d) xxx

(e) xxx”

SECTION 3. Section 463 of Republic Act No. 7160. – Section 463 of Republic Act No. 7160 shall be amended to read as follows:

“Section 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 WITH THE QUALIFICATIONS SET FORTH IN
REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9593, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE TOURISM
ACT OF 2009."

(b) xxx
(c) xxx
(d) xxx
(e) xxx"

SECTION 4. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The Department of Interior and
Local Government (DILG) in coordination with the Department of Tourism (DOT) shall
promulgate the rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 5. Separability Clause. – Any portion or provision of this Act that may be
declared unconstitutional or invalid shall not have the effect of nullifying the other portions or
provisions hereof as long as such remaining portion or provision can still subsist and be given
effect in their entirety.

SECTION 6. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or
other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed
or modified accordingly.

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

Approved.