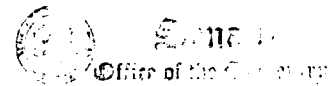
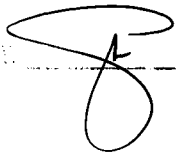


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**SENATE**

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**S. No. 2507**

(In Substitution of S.B. Nos. 89, 812, 1236, 1422, 1469,  
taking into consideration H.B. No. 7355)

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Prepared by the Committees on Local Government joint with the Committee on Finance, with Senators Zubiri, Villanueva, Gatchalian, Ejercito, Revilla Jr., and Lapid, as authors thereof.

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**AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING THE NEGROS ISLAND REGION**

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

1           **SECTION 1. Short Title.** - This Act shall be known as the "**Negros Island**  
2 **Region Act.**"

3           **Sec 2. Declaration of Policy.** - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to  
4 promote efficiency in the government to enable it to pursue programs consistent with  
5 national goals for accelerated social and economic development.

6           Pursuant to this policy, the State shall promote administrative decentralization  
7 to strengthen local autonomy and accelerate the economic, cultural, and social  
8 development of the region.

9           **Sec 3. Creation.** - The Negros Island Region (NIR) is hereby established which  
10 shall be composed of the following provinces, including the cities, municipalities, and  
11 barangays comprising the provinces:

12           a. Negros Occidental including Bacolod City;

1           b. Negros Oriental; and

2           c. Siquijor

3           **Sec. 4. *Negros Island Region Government Offices.*** – To ensure the effective  
4 delivery of public services to the NIR, regional offices shall be established and  
5 designated in the following manner:

6

7           I.       Negros Occidental

8

9           A. Agriculture and Land-Related Cluster

10           1. Department of Agriculture

11           2. Department of Environment and Natural Resources

12           3. Department of Agrarian Reform

13           4. Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development

14

15           B. Peace and Order and Security Cluster

16

17           1. Department of Justice

18           2. Department of the Interior and Local Government

19           3. Philippine National Police

20           4. Department of National Defense

21

22           C. Governance Cluster

23

24           1. Department of Budget and Management

25           2. Department of Finance

26           3. National Economic Development Authority

27           4. Department of Foreign Affairs

28           5. Commission on Audit

29           6. Commission on Elections

30

31           II.       Negros Oriental

32

33           A. Human Development Cluster

34

35           1. Department of Education

- 1           2. Department of Social Welfare and Development
- 2           3. Department of Health
- 3           4. Technical Education and Skills Development Authority
- 4           5. Commission on Higher Education
- 5           6. Civil Service Commission
- 6           7. Philippine Statistics Authority
- 7           8. Department of Labor and Employment

8

9           B. Infrastructure Cluster

10

- 11           1. Department of Public Works and Highways
- 12           2. Department of Transportation
- 13           3. Department of Information and Communications Technology
- 14           4. Department of Energy

15

16           C. Industry and Labor Cluster

17

- 18           1. Department of Trade and Industry
- 19           2. Department of Tourism
- 20           3. Department of Science and Technology
- 21           4. DOF - Securities and Exchange Commission

22

23           **Sec. 5. *Creation of a Technical Working Group (TWG).*** - Upon the approval of  
24 this Act, a Technical Working Group (TWG) shall be constituted. This will be composed  
25 of the National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), the Department of the  
26 Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Budget and Management  
27 (DBM), the representative of the Office of the Governor of the provinces, and the  
28 representatives from all elected members of the House of Representatives of the  
29 provinces.

30           The TWG shall formulate the plan or roadmap to put in place all institutional  
31 arrangements for the Negros Island Region, arrange for the organizational  
32 development requirements as well as other necessary concerns for development  
33 planning, investment programming and public service provision. The DILG shall serve  
34 as the secretariat of the TWG.

1           **Sec. 6. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - Within sixty (60) days from the  
2 effectivity of this Act, the DILG, NEDA, and DBM, in consultation with the provincial  
3 governments of Negros Occidental, Negros Oriental, and Siquijor are mandated to  
4 promulgate the implementing rules and regulation in relation to this Act.

5           **Sec. 7. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision of this Act is held invalid or  
6 unconstitutional, other parts or provisions hereof not affected thereby shall continue  
7 to be in full force and effect.

8           **Sec. 8. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, issuances, rules and regulations or parts  
9 thereof that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed,  
10 amended, and modified accordingly.

11           **Sec. 9. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its  
12 complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*