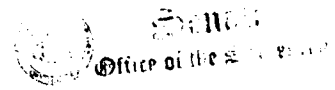
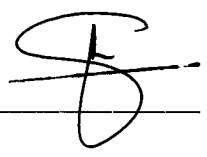


NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )



23 DEC -6 P2:00

**SENATE**

RECEIVED BY: 

**COMMITTEE REPORT No. 177**

Submitted by the Committees on Local Government; and Finance on  
**DEC - 6 2023**

Re: Senate Bill No. 2507

Recommending its approval in substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 89, 812, 1236, 1422, 1469, taking into consideration House Bill No. 7355.

Sponsor: Sen. Joseph Victor G. Ejercito

**MR. PRESIDENT:**

The Committees on Local Government; and Finance, to which were referred **Senate Bill No. 89**, introduced by Senator Juan Miguel F. Zubiri and Joel Villanueva, entitled:

**"AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING THE NEGROS ISLAND REGION TO BE KNOWN AS  
REGION XVIII"**

**Senate Bill No. 812**, introduced by Senator Win Gatchalian, entitled:

**"AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING THE NEGROS ISLAND REGION AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES"**

**Senate Bill No. 1236**, introduced by Senator Joseph Victor G. Ejercito, entitled:

**"AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING THE NEGROS ISLAND REGION TO BE KNOWN AS  
REGION XVIII"**

**Senate Bill No. 1422**, introduced by Senator Ramon Bong Revilla, Jr., entitled:

**"AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING THE NEGROS ISLAND REGION AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES"**

and **Senate Bill No. 1469**, introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid., entitled:

**"AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING THE NEGROS ISLAND REGION TO BE KNOWN AS  
REGION XVIII AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES"**

taking into consideration **House Bill No. 7355**, introduced by Representatives Ferrer (J.M.), Marañon, Benitez, et al., entitled:

**"AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING THE NEGROS ISLAND REGION, AND  
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR"**

have considered the same and have the honor to report them back to the Senate with the recommendation that the attached **Senate Bill No. 2507**, prepared by the Committees, entitled:

**"AN ACT  
ESTABLISHING THE NEGROS ISLAND REGION"**

be approved in substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 89, 812, 1236, 1422, and 1469, taking into consideration House Bill No. 7355, with Senators Zubiri, Villanueva, Gatchalian, Ejercito, Revilla, Jr., and Lapid as authors thereof.

Respectfully submitted:

**Chairpersons:**



**SEN. JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO**  
*Committee on Local Government;*  
*Vice Chairperson, Committee on Finance*

**SEN. SONNY ANGARA**  
*Committee on Finance;*  
*Member, Committee on Local Government*

**Senior Vice Chairpersons:**

**SEN. PIA S. CAYETANO**  
*Committee on Finance*

**IMEE R. MARCOS**  
*Committee on Finance;*  
*Member, Committee on Local*  
*Government*

**Vice Chairpersons:**

**SEN. RONALD "BATO" DELA  
ROSA**  
*Committee on Local Government;*  
*Committee on Finance*

**SEN. CYNTHIA A. VILLAR**  
*Committee on Finance;*  
*Member, Committee on Local*  
*Government*

Respectfully submitted:

**Chairpersons:**



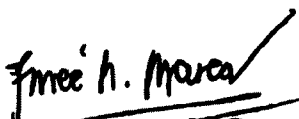
**SEN. JOSEPH VICTOR G. EJERCITO**  
*Committee on Local Government;*  
*Vice Chairperson, Committee on Finance*



**SEN. SONNY ANGARA**  
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*Member, Committee on Local Government*

**Senior Vice Chairpersons:**

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*Committee on Finance*

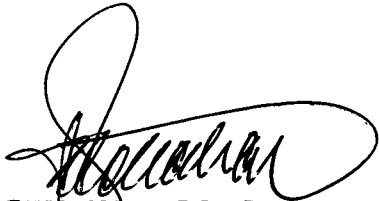


**INEE R. MARCOS**  
*Committee on Finance;*  
*Member, Committee on Local Government*

**Vice Chairpersons:**

**SEN. RONALD "BATO" DELA ROSA**  
*Committee on Local Government;*  
*Committee on Finance*

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*Committee on Finance;*  
*Member, Committee on Local Government*



**SEN. WIN GATCHALIAN**  
*Committee on Finance;*  
*Member, Committee on Local*  
*Government*

**SEN. CHRISTOPHER "BONG" T. GO**

*Committee on Finance;*  
*Member, Committee Local*  
*Government*

**SEN. RISA HONTIVEROS**

*Committee on Finance;*  
*Member, Committee on Local*  
*Government*



**SEN. MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY**

*Committee on Finance;*  
*Member, Committee Local*  
*Government*

**SEN. GRACE POE**

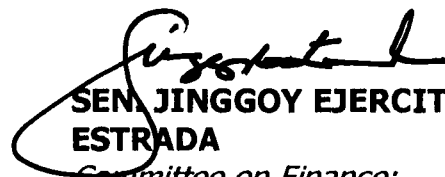
*Committee on Finance*

**SEN. FRANCIS "TOL" N. TOLENTINO**

*Committee on Finance;*  
*Member, Committee Local*  
*Government*

**SEN. MARK VILLAR**

*Committee on Finance;*  
*Member, Committee Local*  
*Government*



**SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA**

*Committee on Finance;*  
*Member, Committee Local*  
*Government*

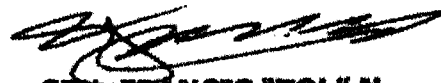
**SEN. WIN GATCHALIAN**  
*Committee on Finance;*  
*Member, Committee on Local*  
*Government*

**SEN. CHRISTOPHER "BONG" T.  
GO**  
*Committee on Finance;*  
*Member, Committee Local*  
*Government*

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*Government*

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S. BINAY**  
*Committee on Finance;*  
*Member, Committee Local*  
*Government*

  
**SEN. GRACE POE**  
*Committee on Finance*

  
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*Member, Committee Local*  
*Government*

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*Committee on Finance;*  
*Member, Committee Local*  
*Government*

**SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO  
ESTRADA**  
*Committee on Finance;*  
*Member, Committee Local*  
*Government*

**Members:**



**SEN. MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID**  
*Committee on Finance*

**SEN. ROBINHOOD C. PADILLA**  
*Committee on Finance;*  
*Committee Local Government*



**SEN. RAFFY T. TULFO**  
*Committee on Finance;*  
*Committee Local Government*

**SEN. ALAN PETER "COMPANERO"  
S. CAYETANO**  
*Committee on Finance;*

**SEN. FRANCIS G. ESCUDERO**  
*Committee on Finance*

**SEN. RAMON BONG REVILLA JR.**  
*Committee on Finance*  
*Committee Local Government*

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**SEN. RAMON BONG REVILLA JR.**  
*Committee on Finance*  
*Committee Local Government*



**Ex Officio Members:**

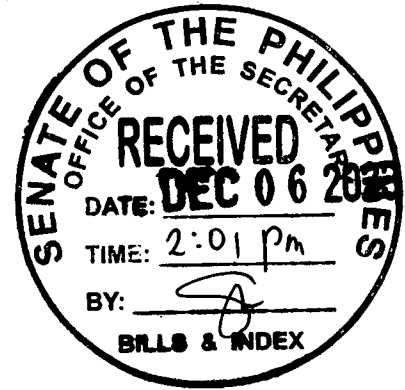
**SEN. LOREN LEGARDA**  
President Pro Tempore  
Senior Vice Chairperson, Committee on Finance

  
**SEN. JOEL VILLANUEVA**  
Majority Leader

"Will interpellate"  
  
**SEN. AQUILINO "KOKO" PIMENTEL III**  
Minority Leader

**HON. JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI**  
Senate President

NINETEETH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Second Regular Session )



SENATE

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.

---

**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           1. Department of Justice

17           2. Department of the Interior and Local Government

18           3. Philippine National Police

19           4. Department of National Defense

20  
21  
22           C. Governance Cluster

23           1. Department of Budget and Management

24           2. Department of Finance

25           3. National Economic Development Authority

26           4. Department of Foreign Affairs

27           5. Commission on Audit

28           6. Commission on Elections

29  
30  
31           II.       Negros Oriental

32  
33           A. Human Development Cluster

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

14

15

16           C. Industry and Labor Cluster

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

21

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,*