

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



Senate
Office of the Secretary

13 AUG 22 P5:04

SENATE
S. No. 1339

RECEIVED BY: *ji*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Small communities are vital components of the nation's economic, social, agricultural, historic, and cultural fabric. Our national character has been shaped by and is forever tied to the landscape of surrounding small communities. A growing number of small communities are facing significant challenges that place their long-term viability at risk, including economic hardship, declining population, eroding tax bases, and environmental pressures. Revitalizing and strengthening small communities begins by helping residents of those communities to articulate and formalize their vision for the future and to develop an action plan to achieve that vision, including in the areas of economic development, agriculture, tourism, transportation, land use, education, recreation, and culture, and by understanding the amenity characteristics of landscapes.

In many cases, a community's vision for the future is rooted in and inseparable from the landscape, including the natural and built environments. Landscape architects have the education, training, and skills, including in the areas of community involvement and public participation, land use planning, design, project visualization techniques, scenic resource assessment, mapping and Geographic Information Systems (GIS), environmental analysis, and environmental psychology, that ideally qualify them to lead community visioning efforts.

Expanding national support for small community visioning is an investment in the future of small communities and will leverage additional public and private sector participation in such efforts. Successful community visioning efforts have yielded tangible results with regard to the enhancement of transportation corridors, economic development initiatives, land use policies,

conservation of natural and community resources, community master plans, and park and recreation plans.


This bill seeks to develop and facilitate innovative visions that help small communities address pressing local needs; facilitate coordination between small communities, land-grant and other universities, and design professionals; encourage public-private partnerships; and translate the small community's vision into images of design projects that integrate physical planning and design techniques, with sustainable community action, at the appropriate geographic scale.*

as
Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

* This bill was originally filed in the Fourteenth Congress, Second Regular Session.

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SENATE
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AN ACT

IMPROVING THE CAPABILITY OF SMALL COMMUNITIES TO COORDINATE WITH
LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTS AND DESIGN PROFESSIONALS IN DEVELOPING A
VISION TO ADDRESS THEIR LOCAL NEEDS

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Small Community Visioning Improvement Act.”

SECTION 2. *Community Visioning Pilot Initiative.* – The Secretary of Tourism (hereinafter referred to as the “Secretary”) shall make grants to eligible recipients for the purpose of carrying out small community visioning processes. In order to be eligible for a grant under this Act, the applicant must use a small community visioning process that includes the following:

A. *Soliciting and Organizing Public Participation* – The broadest segment of the public is invited to participate, and the process is structured to maximize participation and maintain efficiency.

B. *Needs Determination* – The small community determines whether the community requires assistance through this process with a broad-based needs assessment or whether it has identified a specific need through a prior community-based process that the community wants to address through the small community visioning process. The community’s needs may include the areas of economic development, transportation, land use, agriculture, and the natural, cultural, and aesthetic values of the community.

C. *Developing Design Options* – Members of the community engage in a series of discussions to articulate their vision for addressing the identified need. The design professionals facilitate the discussions, help members of the community identify areas of consensus, and begin

1 translating the vision into images, including sketches, maps, digital images, computer
2 simulations, and design concepts. The vision and design options are refined in an ongoing
3 dialogue until community consensus is reached and physical designs for 1 or more projects are
4 finalized.

5 D. *Implementation Planning* – Design professionals, members of the public, and
6 others develop and finalize a plan that describes the specific steps the community would take to
7 achieve its vision. At a minimum, the plan should identify the following:

- 8 1. projects relating to that vision, including projects the community can
9 undertake and complete with existing resources, personnel, and funding, and
10 projects which the community could undertake and complete only with the
11 infusion of additional resources, personnel, and funding;
- 12 2. government agencies, nongovernment organizations, and other potential
13 partners that could participate in implementation; and
- 14 3. possible sources of public and private funding to achieve the vision.

15 SECTION 3. *Application Process for Grant Eligibility.* – Not later than sixty (60) days
16 after the Secretary issues final regulations, the Secretary shall solicit applications for grants from
17 eligible grant recipients. The application shall include the following:

18 A. A statement of the needs that the small community would address through the
19 small community visioning process, or a statement that the small community requires assistance
20 to identify such a need.

21 B. A brief description of process the small community used or will use to involve a
22 diverse cross-section of residents of the community in determining the need.

23 C. A description of how the applicant will use the services of design professionals or
24 university programs with demonstrated expertise in small community visioning processes in
25 providing assistance to the small community.

26 D. A description of how the applicant will involve a diverse cross-section of
27 residents of the small community in the visioning process.

1 E. A description of the phases of the visioning process, the anticipated outcomes of
2 each phase, and of the visioning initiative as a whole.

3 F. A detailed budget for the visioning process, including the contribution to be
4 provided by the applicant or a request for waiver of such a contribution.

5 G. A description of the steps the applicant will take to do the following:

6 1. assess the effectiveness of the visioning process in addressing the
7 community's need; and

8 2. integrate the findings of the needs determination into ongoing efforts to
9 implement the vision developed pursuant to this section.

10 SECTION 4. *Grant Regulations.* – Within one hundred eighty (180) days after the
11 effectivity date of this Act and after opportunity for public comment, the Secretary shall issue
12 such regulations as the Secretary deems appropriate to carry out this Act.

13 SECTION 5. *Grant Amounts and Administrative Expenses.* – A grant under this Act
14 shall not exceed one million pesos (₱1,000,000.00) for each grantee. A grant under this Act shall
15 not be used to develop or produce construction documents.

16 SECTION 6. *Report to Congress.* – Not later than three (3) years after the date of the
17 enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate committees in the Senate and
18 the House of Representatives a report that describes, at a minimum—

19 A. The most effective practices and procedures used to assist communities in the
20 small community visioning process;

21 B. Examples of the public-private partnerships developed to identify and implement
22 community goals;

23 C. Examples of the tangible, physical outcomes of small community visioning
24 processes funded under this Act;

25 D. Recommendations for improving, strengthening, and expanding the program
26 carried out under this Act; and

1 E. A list of all grantees under this Act and grant amounts received by each grantee.

2 SECTION 7. *Appropriation.* – The amount of twenty million pesos (P20,000,000.00) is
3 hereby authorized to be appropriated for the grants to implement the community visioning
4 processes. Thereafter, the funds necessary for the operation of the program shall be included in
5 the General Appropriations Act.

6 SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part thereof is held invalid or
7 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
8 valid and subsisting.

9 SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, presidential decree or issuance, executive
10 orders, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, and regulation contrary to or inconsistent
11 with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

12 SECTION 10. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following
13 its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,