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



16 JUL 19 P2:47

SENATE

S. No. 546

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Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

AN ACT

RECOGNIZING NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAYS IN THE PHILIPPINES THEREBY CREATING A NATIONAL SCENIC BYWAYS PROGRAM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill aims to recognize, protect and promote the Philippines' most outstanding roads having one of six core intrinsic qualities - scenic, historic, cultural, natural, recreational, and archaeological qualities - features which contribute to the character of the roadway and its communities. The National Scenic Byways designation aims to award routes that show the regional characteristics of the nation's culture, history and landscape.

National Scenic Byways represent the best of all scenic byways and provide visitors with a unique travel experience since they are considered tourist attractions in their own right. Under this measure, if a route is designated as such, it does not only gain an expected boost in tourism, but also becomes eligible for appropriations for improvements such as interpretive centers, overlooks, and rest areas. Moreover, local residents will be encouraged to work closely with the Government and civic organizations to preserve and promote the unique local beauty and distinctive character of their own community.

Recognition of scenic byways focuses not only on the promotion of roads, but also helps balance economic development and resource conservation in the localities. In the United States of America, strong scenic byways program demonstrated strong community support and even encouraged the citizens to develop a corridor management plan that describes in detail the preservation, marketing, and improvement strategies for the byway.

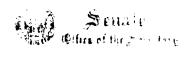
This program seeks to preserve the beauty of the designated scenic corridors, which reaps rewards by protecting community character while providing economic opportunities in tourism and recreation.

Approval of this bill is earnestly urged.

ANTONIO SONNY" F. TRILLANES IN

Senator

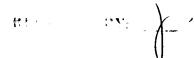
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Be it enacted by the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress Assembled:

- **SECTION 1.** Short Title. --- This Act shall be known as the "National Scenic Byways Program of 2016."
- **SEC. 2.** *Definition of Terms*. --- For the purpose of this Act, the words and phrases used herein shall mean:
 - 1. Grants a non-repayable, non-bearing assistance or aid, given either through monetary or in kind, to encourage development or growth in an area.
 - 2. Byway a minor or secondary road; a road other than the main road.
 - 3. National Scenic Byway a road that is recognized for its archaeological, cultural, historic, natural, recreational, and/or scenic qualities.

SEC. 3. Designation of Roads.-

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- 1. In general. The Secretary of Department of Tourism (DOT) shall carry out a national scenic byways program that recognizes roads having outstanding scenic, historic, cultural, natural, recreational, and archaeological qualities by designating the roads as "National Scenic Byways".
- 2. Criteria. The DOT Secretary shall designate roads to be recognized under the national scenic byways program in accordance with the criteria developed by the department.

establishment of the Philippines' Byways Resource Center (PBRC). DOT shall

oversee and manage the resources of the center.

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- a) Use of Funds. The Center shall use funds allocated to the Center under this section to continue to provide technical support and conduct educational activities for the national scenic byways program.
- b) Eligible Activities, Technical support and educational activities carried out under this sub-section shall provide local officials and organizations associated with National Scenic Byways, with proactive, technical, and on-site customized assistance, including training, communications (including a public awareness series), publications, conferences, on-site meetings, and other assistance considered appropriate to develop and sustain such byways and roads.
- SEC. 6. Eligible Projects. The following are projects that are eligible for Government assistance under this section:
 - 1) An activity related to the planning, design, or development of a National Government agency, LGU or civic organization scenic byway program.
 - 2) Development and implementation of a corridor management plan to maintain the scenic, historical, recreational, cultural, natural, and archaeological characteristics of a byway corridor while providing for accommodation of increased tourism and development of related amenities.
 - 3) Safety improvements to a National Government scenic byway, LGU scenic byway or National Scenic Byway, to the extent that the improvements are necessary to accommodate increased traffic and changes in the types of vehicles using the highway as a result of the designation as a Government scenic byway, civic organization scenic byway or National Scenic Byway.
 - 4) Construction along a scenic byway of a facility for pedestrians and bicyclists, rest area, turnout, highway shoulder improvement, overlook, or interpretive facility.
 - 5) An improvement to a scenic byway that will enhance access to an area for the purpose of recreation, including water-related recreation.
 - 6) Protection of scenic, historical, recreational, cultural, natural, and archaeological resources in an area adjacent to a scenic byway.
 - 7) Development and provision of tourist information to the public, including interpretive information about a scenic byway.

| SEC. 7. Limitation of Grants The DOT Secretary shall not make a grant under this |
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| section for any project that would not protect the scenic, historical, recreational, cultural |
| natural, and archaeological integrity of a highway and adjacent areas. |
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8) Development and implementation of a scenic byway marketing program.

- **SEC. 8.** Savings Clause. The DOT Secretary shall not withhold any grant or impose any requirement on a National Government, LGU or civic organization as a condition of providing a grant or technical assistance for any scenic byway unless the requirement is consistent with the authority provided in this Act.
- **SEC. 9.** *Regulation*. The DOT Secretary, in consultation with all concerned stakeholders shall issue the necessary rules and regulations of this Act within ninety (90) days after the effectivity of this Act.
- **SEC. 10.** Appropriations. The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be provided out of the savings from the appropriations of the DOT for the current year. Thereafter, the sum necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be appropriated in the annual appropriations of the DOT.
- **SEC. 11.** *Repealing Clause.* All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.
- **SEC. 12.** *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days upon its publication in at least two (2) general newspapers of national circulation.

Approved,

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