


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



'16 JUL 20 P3:15

SENATE
S.B. No. 667

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by: Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" A. Aquino IV

**AN ACT
TO PREVENT HARASSMENT OF TOURISTS**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippine islands are emerging to be among the most sought after - and most fun - travel destinations in the world. Our very own island paradise of Palawan has been voted as the most beautiful island in the world by Condé Nast Traveler readers two years in a row. And even local tourism has started to pick up with Filipinos' desire to see more of the country from Batanes to Siargao.

From January to April of this year, we have already welcomed over 2 million visitors to our shores, and it is a challenge to us Filipinos to ensure that they truly have more fun in the Philippines.

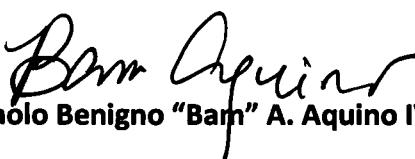
We Filipinos take pride in our hospitality and ability to make guests feel like they're exactly where they should be with our warm smiles, delicious food, and caring nature. But with many of our countrymen living in dire straits, many attempt to take advantage of unknowing tourists out of desperation.

This bill seeks to ensure the safety of our guests by discouraging aggressive solicitation from tourists and imposing fines for repeat offenders. Through this measure, tourism help desks will be established in identified tourist havens and regular patrols should be conducted to safeguard the proper implementation of the law.

To foster a tourist-friendly culture among Philippine communities residing in tourist havens, the Department of Tourism, in coordination with the barangay officials, shall promote responsible marketing and conduct regular seminars for the local vendors and residents.

Let us assure visitors of our beautiful islands of a pleasant Philippine adventure.

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


Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" A. Aquino IV

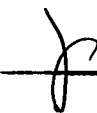
SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
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Senate
Office of the Secretary

'16 JUL 20 P3:16

SENATE
S.B. No. 667

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by: Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" A. Aquino IV

AN ACT TO PREVENT THE HARASSMENT OF TOURISTS

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the "Anti-Harassment of
2 Tourists Act."

3 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Principles.** – The State recognizes tourism as a major
4 contributor to our country's economic growth. Towards this end, the State shall
5 enact measures to protect our tourists, domestic or international, from unnecessary
6 inconveniences during their stay in tourist destinations. The right of the local
7 businesses to reasonably promote their business shall be respected.

8 **SEC. 3. Tourist Havens.** – The Department of Tourism (DOT) shall identify the
9 barangays which shall be considered as Tourist Havens. For the purposes of this Act
10 Tourist Havens are barangays which have a high volume of tourists who stay for
11 longer than one day.

12 **SEC. 4. Unlawful Solicitation.** – It shall be unlawful for persons to repeatedly
13 and aggressively solicit business from tourists who have already expressed their
14 desire not to be bothered by solicitations. Persons who commit unlawful solicitations
15 shall incur the following penalties:

- 16 1. First offense: Warning
17 2. Subsequent offense against the same person: Five hundred pesos fine
18 for each incursion.

19 **SEC. 5. Deputization of Barangay Officials.** – The DOT may deputize the
20 Barangay Officials in the Tourists Havens to enforce this Act.

21 **SEC. 6. Tourism Help Desk and Regular Patrol.** – The DOT or the Deputized
22 Barangay Officials in the Tourists Havens shall set up an assistance desk/office in the
23 areas frequented by tourists to receive tourist complaints and manage all tourist
24 related issues in their barangays.

1 The DOT or the Deputized Barangay Officials shall also conduct regular
2 patrols in such areas to ensure that the provisions of this Act are observed and offer
3 immediate assistance to tourists.

4 **SEC. 7. Responsible Marketing.** – The DOT, in coordination with the barangay
5 officials, shall conduct regular seminars and programs addressed to local vendors
6 and service providers promoting responsible marketing to tourists.

7 **SEC. 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** — Within sixty (60) days from
8 the effectivity of this Act, the DOT shall promulgate the necessary rules and
9 regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

10 **SEC. 9. Separability Clause.** - If any provision of this Act shall be held
11 unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act not otherwise affected shall remain in full
12 force and effect.

13 **SEC. 10. Repealing Clause.** – All other existing laws, presidential decrees,
14 executive orders, proclamations or administrative regulations that are inconsistent
15 with the provisions of this Act are hereby amended, modified or repealed
16 accordingly.

17 **SEC. 11. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
18 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

19 *Approved,*