



## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 5115

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BY REPRESENTATIVES ERIGUEL, MATUGAS, ABAYA, VERGARA AND COSALAN,  
PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1301

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AN ACT FIXING THE LIMITS OF FORESTLANDS WITHIN FIVE (5)  
KILOMETERS FROM EITHER SIDE OF THE ASPIRAS  
HIGHWAY (FORMERLY KNOWN AS MARCOS HIGHWAY)  
FROM AGOO, LA UNION TO BAGUIO CITY, REPEALING FOR  
THE PURPOSE PROCLAMATION NO. 1754

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

1           SECTION 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Aspiras Highway  
2 Land Limits Act of 2011”.

3           SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to  
4 conserve, protect and develop the forest resources of the country in order to  
5 attain ecological balance, preserve valuable ecosystems, prevent environmental  
6 degradation and promote sustainable development for the present and  
7 succeeding generations. To achieve these ends, Section 4 of Article XII of the  
8 1987 Philippine Constitution mandates Congress to determine by law the  
9 specific limits of forestlands and national parks, marking clearly their  
10 boundaries on the ground.

11           SEC. 3. *Permanent Forestlands.* – The permanent forestlands shall be  
12 as follows:

1 (a) All lands of the public domain already classified as forestland per  
2 existing land classification maps issued by the Department of Environment and  
3 Natural Resources (DENR);

4 (b) All permanent forest reserves proclaimed as such by the President  
5 or declared by Congress through law; and

6 (c) Such areas within the unclassified lands of the public domain which  
7 may hereafter be classified as forestland by the DENR, pursuant to this Act.

8 *SEC. 4. Ground Delineation of the Specific Forest Limits.* -

9 Immediately upon the effectivity of this Act, the DENR shall undertake the  
10 actual ground survey and verification of the specific forest limits using as basis  
11 all existing land classification (LC) maps, the latest forest cover data of the  
12 National Mapping and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA) from its  
13 satellite imagery interpretations, and other available reliable sources of  
14 information: *Provided*, That the area originally classified as timberland per  
15 LC Map No. 1392 shall be retained and shall be subject to a joint validation  
16 and redefinition of boundary by the DENR: *Provided, further*, That existing  
17 built-up and populated areas within Proclamation No. 1754 and the areas  
18 identified as agricultural lands shall be subject to assessment and ground  
19 survey by the DENR in accordance with existing laws, rules and regulations.

20 All areas adjacent to the Aspiras Highway which are susceptible to  
21 erosion as determined by the DENR and concerned local government units  
22 (LGUs) shall be excluded from areas to be reclassified as agricultural land.

23 *SEC. 5. Permanent Forest Line.* - The permanent forest line shall be  
24 established and clearly marked on the ground by concrete monuments at  
25 certain fixed distances, visible cut lines, signboards and uniformly-spaced  
26 distinctive trees maintained at all times between the concrete monuments.

1           SEC. 6. *Determination of the Specific Forest Limits.* – The permanent  
2 forestlands established pursuant to this Act shall not be diminished or reduced  
3 except by an act of Congress. The DENR, in coordination with all agencies  
4 and branches of the government, shall see to it that the forest cover and  
5 vegetation therein shall be protected, preserved and enhanced.

6           After due consultation with the LGUs, the communities and other  
7 stakeholders, the DENR shall undertake the subclassification of the permanent  
8 forestlands.

9           SEC. 7. *Status of National Parks, Mineral Lands and Other Public*  
10 *Reservations.* – The land classification of proclaimed national parks,  
11 protected areas and mineral lands and the status of civil reservations, military  
12 reservations and other reservations for public and quasi-public uses within the  
13 affected area shall be respected and shall not be adversely affected by this Act.

14           SEC. 8. *Appropriations.* – The Secretary of the DENR shall  
15 immediately include in the Department's program the implementation of this  
16 Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General  
17 Appropriations Act.

18           SEC. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within three (3)  
19 months from the effectivity of this Act, the DENR, in consultation with the  
20 provincial government of La Union, the city government of Baguio and the  
21 affected municipalities, shall issue the corresponding implementing rules and  
22 regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

23           SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion of this Act is declared  
24 unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the  
25 other provisions not affected thereby.

1           SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.* – Proclamation No. 1754, entitled  
2 “Reserving a Strip of Land along Marcos Highway from Agoo, La Union to  
3 Baguio City for Watershed and Forest Reserve Purposes”, is hereby repealed.  
4 All laws, decrees, letters of instruction, executive orders, rules and regulations  
5 and other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby  
6 repealed or modified accordingly.

7           SEC. 12. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after  
8 its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general  
9 circulation.

Approved,

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