



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 5207

BY REPRESENTATIVES ERIGUEL, MATUGAS AND UNGAB, PER COMMITTEE
REPORT NO. 488

AN ACT FIXING THE FOREST LIMITS OF A STRIP OF LAND FIVE (5)
KILOMETERS FROM EITHER SIDE OF THE ASPIRAS 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 Forest Land Limits Act”.

3 SEC. 2. *Ground Delineation of the Specific Forest Limits.* –
4 Immediately upon the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Environment
5 and Natural Resources (DENR) shall undertake the actual ground survey and
6 verification of the specific forest limits using as basis all existing land
7 classification (LC) maps, the latest forest cover data of the National Mapping
8 and Resource Information Authority (NAMRIA) from its satellite imagery
9 interpretations, and other available reliable sources of information: *Provided,*
10 That the area originally classified as timberland per LC Map No. 1392 shall be
11 retained and shall be subject to a joint validation and redefinition of boundary

1 by the DENR: *Provided, further*, That existing built-up and populated areas
2 covered by Proclamation No. 1754 and the areas identified as agricultural
3 lands shall be subject to assessment and ground survey by the DENR in
4 accordance with existing laws, rules and regulations.

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

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

13 After due consultation with the LGUs, communities, and other
14 stakeholders, the DENR shall undertake the subclassification of the permanent
15 forestlands.

16 The land classification of proclaimed national parks, protected areas,
17 and mineral lands together with the status of civil reservations, military
18 reservations, and other reservations for public and quasi-public uses within the
19 affected area shall be respected and shall not be adversely affected by this Act.

20 **SEC. 4. *Appropriations.*** – The Secretary of the DENR shall
21 immediately include in the Department's program the implementation of this
22 Act, the funding of which shall be included in the annual General
23 Appropriations Act.

24 **SEC. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within three (3)
25 months from the effectivity of this Act, the DENR, in consultation with the
26 Provincial Government of La Union, the City Government of Baguio, and the
27 affected municipalities, shall issue the corresponding implementing rules and
28 regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

1 SEC. 6. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion of this Act is declared
2 invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force
3 and effect.

4 SEC. 7. *Repealing Clause.* – Proclamation No. 1754, entitled
5 “Reserving a Strip of Land Along Marcos Highway from Agoo, La Union to
6 Baguio City for Watershed and Forest Reserve Purposes” is hereby repealed.

7 All other laws, decrees, letters of instruction, executive orders, rules
8 and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act
9 are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

10 SEC. 8 *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
11 its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,

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