CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS Third Regular Session

## HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

## H. No. 9004

- BY REPRESENTATIVES KHO, BELARO AND SY-ALVARADO, PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 1182
- AN ACT DECLARING THE LIMESTONE HILLS LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF AROROY, PROVINCE OF MASBATE AN ECOTOURISM ZONE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR
- Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress assembled:

1 SECTION 1. It is declared the policy of the State to promote 2 a safe and sustainable ecotourism industry consistent with the 3 protection and preservation of the environment.

4 SEC. 2. The Limestone Hills located in the Municipality 5 of Aroroy, Province of Masbate is declared an ecotourism zone. 6 As such, its development shall be prioritized by the Department 7 of Tourism (DOT) and other concerned agencies, and shall be 8 subject to the rules and regulations governing the development 9 of ecotourism zones.

SEC. 3. Within one (1) year from the approval of this Act,
the DOT, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources

(DENR), and the Provincial Government of Masbate shall prepare
 a master plan for the Limestone Hills.

3 Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, 4 the DOT, the DENR, and the Provincial Government of Masbate, 5 in coordination with other concerned agencies of the government, 6 shall likewise promulgate the necessary rules and regulations 7 for the proper implementation of this Act.

8 SEC. 4. The Secretary of the DOT shall include in the 9 Department's program the implementation of this Act, the funding 10 of which shall be included in the annual General Appropriations 11 Act and internally generated funds of the DOT.

12 SEC. 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after 13 its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper 14 of general circulation.

Approved,

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