


NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE]
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES]
First Regular Session]

'22 JUL 25 A11 :24

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

S.B. No. 812

Introduced by SEN. WIN GATCHALIAN

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE NEGROS ISLAND REGION
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

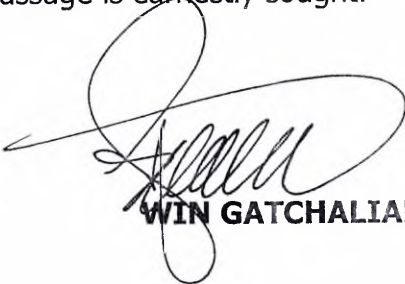
EXPLANATORY NOTE

While the creation of the Negros Island Region (NIR) has been initiated through Executive Order No. 183 sometime May 2015, its full realization has been put on hold on August 2017 through Executive Order No. 38.

Thus, this bill seeks to begin again the process of establishing the NIR, to be known as Region XVIII. The NIR will be comprised of the province of Negros Occidental, which is currently part of Region VI or Western Visayas, including Bacolod City, and the province of Negros Oriental, which is at present a part of Region VII or Central Visayas. These provinces comprise the Negros Island.

With the establishment of the NIR, and considering the geography of the Negros Island, it is hoped that better synergy is encouraged among the two provinces and other political units, to promote a more effective and efficient delivery of basic services, and accelerate economic growth, for the more than 4.6 million Negrense in the region.

With these considerations, support for the passage is earnestly sought.



WIN GATCHALIAN

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES**]
First Regular Session]

'22 JUL 25 A11 :24

SENATE

RECEIVED BY

S. B. No. 812

Introduced by SEN. WIN GATCHALIAN

**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING THE NEGROS ISLAND REGION
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

*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 "*Negros Island*
2 *Region Act*".

3

4 SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the
5 State to promote efficiency in the government to enable it to pursue programs
6 consistent with national goals for accelerated social and economic
7 development. It is also declared the policy of the State to enhance
8 intergovernmental relations for efficient and effective delivery of services.

9 Towards these ends, the State, after due consultation with the
10 appropriate local government units, government agencies, and the private
11 sector, shall formulate socioeconomic development programs in accordance
12 with its mandate to promote a more equitable distribution of opportunities,
13 income and wealth, and ensure a sustainable increase in the amount of goods
14 and services provided for the benefit of the people. The State shall likewise
15 provide and promote administrative decentralization to strengthen the

1 autonomy of the local government units and accelerate the economic and social
2 growth and development of the region.

3

4 SEC. 3. *Negros Island Region*. - The Negros Island Region (NIR) shall be
5 composed of the following, including their respective cities, municipalities, and
6 barangays:

7 (a) Provinces:

- 8 1. Negros Occidental;
- 9 2. Negros Oriental; and

10 (b) Independent city:

- 11 3. Bacolod City.

12 The regions from which these provinces and independent city were
13 originally a part of shall remain intact except as provided herein.

14

15 SEC. 4. *Privileges of the Negros Island Region*. - The same privileges
16 under the rules and regulations covering the regions shall remain in force.

17

18 SEC. 5. *Establishment of the Regional Center*. - The national government
19 shall establish a Regional Center in the Negros Island Region which shall be the
20 location of the regional offices of the various Departments and national
21 government agencies in the Executive Branch. The various Departments and
22 national government agencies are mandated to establish their respective
23 regional offices in the NIR.

24

25 SEC. 6. *Establishment of the Negros Island Region Technical Working*
26 *Group (NIR-TWG)*. – Representatives from the Office of the President (OP), the
27 Department of Budget and Management (DBM), the National Economic
28 Development Authority (NEDA), and the Department of the Interior and Local
29 Government (DILG), and the representatives of the Provinces of Negros
30 Oriental and Negros Occidental, is hereby constituted to form a Negros Island
31 Region-Technical Working Group (NIR-TWG).

1 The NIR-TWG will formulate a Roadmap to put in place the institutional
2 arrangements for the NIR; recommend to the OP the preferred Regional
3 Center; arrange the requirements for organizational development, staffing, and
4 budgeting of regional line and regulatory agencies, as well as the imperatives
5 for development planning and investment programming. The NIR-TWG will be
6 sustained until the NIR Roadmap is approved by the OP.

7
8 **SEC. 7. *Role of Government Agencies.*** - All departments, bureaus,
9 offices, agencies, and instrumentalities of the national government, including
10 government-owned or -controlled corporations, and government financial
11 institutions, are hereby directed to extend their full assistance to the NIR-TWG
12 in support of its functions and activities.

13
14 **SEC. 8. *Appropriations.*** - The amount necessary to carry out the
15 provisions of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations
16 of the various agencies and local government units involved. Thereafter, the
17 amount needed for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the
18 annual General Appropriations Act.

19
20 **SEC. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - Within sixty (60) days
21 from the approval of this Act, the NEDA, in coordination with the DILG and
22 DBM, shall formulate the necessary rules and regulations for the
23 implementation of this Act. The implementing rules and regulations issued
24 pursuant to this section shall take effect thirty (30) days after its publication in
25 at least two (2) national newspaper of general circulation.

26
27 **SEC. 10. *Amendatory Clause.*** - The pertinent provisions of Executive
28 Order No. 292, otherwise known as the "Administrative Code of the Philippines",
29 which are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby amended accordingly. All other
30 laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or part
31 thereof, contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby
32 likewise repealed or modified accordingly.

1 SEC. 11. *Separability Clause.* - If any section or provision of this Act is
2 held unconstitutional or invalid, all other sections or provisions shall remain in
3 full force and effect.

4

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

Approved,