



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 5611

BY REPRESENTATIVES TAN (R.M.), MADRONA, CHATTO, ANGARA, ALVAREZ (J.), LUISTRO, RILLO, CHAN, AGARAO, ALMARIO, AUMENTADO, MATUGAS, SINGSON (R.), EMANO, GARCIA (M.A.), SALI, HORIBATA, ZAMORA (M.C.), DELOS SANTOS, ABUNDA, LAGON (D.), MANIQUIZ, OUANO-DIZON, TUTOR, GO (E.C.), BUHAIN, CAGAS, TUPAS, GO (M.), GORRICETA, DALOG, YU (J.V.), CRUZ (R.), GATO, LIMKAICHONG, ESCUDERO, CARL, YU (D.G.), SALVAME, SACDALAN, KHO (R.), LEGARDA, GULLAS, MIGUEL, ALONTE, PLEYTO, GUTIERREZ, MAGSINO, PADIERNOS, GONZALES (A.), FRASCO, HERRERA, ALBANO, BASCUG, CABREDO, CHUNGALAO, COLLANTES, CUARESMA, KHO (O.), LOYOLA, MARIANO-HERNANDEZ, NAVA, OLIVAREZ, PLAZA, RODRIGUEZ (R.), SILVERIO, SUANSING (M.A.) AND TAN (S.J.), PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 90

**AN ACT
DECLARING SOHOTON CAVES AND NATURAL BRIDGE LOCATED
IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF BASEY, PROVINCE OF SAMAR, AN
ECOTOURISM SITE**

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

- 1 **SECTION 1.** The Sohoton Caves and Natural Bridge located in the Municipality of
2 Basey, Province of Samar, is hereby declared an ecotourism site. Pursuant thereto, its
3 development shall be prioritized and supported by the Department of Tourism (DOT), subject
4 to the rules and regulations governing the development of ecotourism sites.

5 **SEC. 2.** Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the municipal government of
6 Basey shall, in coordination with the DOT, Department of Environment and Natural Resources
7 and concerned agencies of the government, prepare a tourism development plan that shall
8 include the construction, installation and maintenance of such appropriate infrastructure and
9 facilities to enhance tourism in the area: *Provided,* That said development plan shall ensure the
10 preservation and conservation of the natural beauty and resources of the area: *Provided, further,*
11 That the implementation of the tourism development plan shall be included in the budget of
12 the municipal government of Basey.

13 **SEC. 3.** The DOT shall assist the municipal government of Basey in the implementation
14 of the tourism development plan by providing technical assistance in tourism capacity building.
15 It shall also include the Sohoton Caves and Natural Bridge in its national and regional
16 promotion programs.

17 **SEC. 4.** The funding for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual
18 budget of the municipal government of Basey. The DOT may augment such allocation with
19 internally-generated funds.

20 **SEC. 5.** Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the municipal
21 government of Basey shall, in consultation with the DOT and concerned agencies of the
22 government, promulgate rules and regulations to implement this Act.

23 **SEC. 6.** All laws, rules, regulations, presidential decrees and other issuances inconsistent
24 with any of the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed repealed or amended accordingly.

25 **SEC. 7.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official*
26 *Gazette* or a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,