



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

H. No. 5961

BY REPRESENTATIVES ANGARA, MADRONA, CHATTO, 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.), MANQUIZ, OUANO-DIZON, TUTOR, GO (E.C.), BUHAIN, CAGAS, TUPAS, GO (M.), GORRICETA, DALOG, YU (J.V.), CRUZ (R.), GATO, LIMKAICHONG, ESCUDERO, CARI, 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 AND SUANSING (M.A.), PER COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 149

AN ACT

RECOGNIZING THE MUNICIPALITY OF BALER IN THE PROVINCE OF AURORA AS THE “BIRTHPLACE OF PHILIPPINE SURFING” AND DECLARING IT AN ECOTOURISM DESTINATION

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

- 1 **SECTION 1.** The Municipality of Baler in the Province of Aurora is hereby declared an
2 ecotourism destination and shall be recognized as the “Birthplace of Philippine Surfing.” Pursuant

1 thereto, its development shall be prioritized and supported by the Department of Tourism (DOT),
2 subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of ecotourism destinations.

3 **SEC. 2.** Within one (1) year after the approval of this Act, the municipal government of
4 Baler shall, in coordination with the DOT, Department of Environment and Natural Resources
5 (DENR) and concerned agencies of the government, prepare a tourism development plan that shall
6 include the construction, installation and maintenance of such facilities and infrastructure as may
7 be necessary and appropriate to promote the beaches and surfing activities in the area: *Provided,*
8 That said development plan shall guarantee the accessibility and security of tourists thereat and
9 ensure the preservation, conservation and optimum utilization of available assets and resources of
10 the area: *Provided, further,* That the implementation of the tourism development plan shall be
11 included in the budget of the municipal government of Baler.

12 **SEC. 3.** The DOT shall assist the municipal government of Baler in the implementation
13 of the tourism development plan by providing technical assistance in tourism capacity building. It
14 shall also include the Municipality of Baler in its national and regional promotion programs.

15 **SEC. 4.** The funding for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual
16 budget of the Municipality of Baler. The DOT may augment such allocation with internally-
17 generated funds.

18 **SEC. 5.** Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the municipal government
19 of Baler shall, in consultation with the DOT, DENR and concerned agencies of the government,
20 promulgate rules and regulations to implement this Act.

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

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

Approved,