

[REPUBLIC ACT NO. 1478, June 15, 1956]

AN ACT TO CREATE A BOARD OF TRAVEL AND TOURIST INDUSTRY, DEFINING ITS POWERS, DUTIES AND RESPONSIBILITIES, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1. There is hereby created a Board of Travel and Tourist Industry to regulate international travel and tourism with a view to the development of a

Philippine tourist industry. The Board shall be composed of the Secretary of Commerce as Chairman and the undersecretaries of Foreign Affairs, Finance, Justice and Public Works and Communications, the President of the Philippine Chamber of Commerce and the President of the Philippine Tourist and Travel Association, as members,

SEC. 2. The Board shall have the following responsibilities and duties:

- a. It shall coordinate the activities of all agencies of the government which concern international travel and tourism;
- b. It shall promote the removal of unnecessary barriers to travel and the integration and simplification of travel regulations and requirements as well as their efficient, fair and courteous enforcement to assure expeditious, pleasant and hospitable reception of all tourists and visitors and utmost satisfaction on their part during their stay in the country and upon their departure;
- c. It shall undertake the development of tourist attractions and provide and maintain essential facilities for tourists and travelers where private enterprise is not prepared to take care of them;
- d. It shall organize and support a program of promotion and publicity calculated to interest, attract and induce people abroad to visit the Philippines and patronize things Philippine and to enhance the prestige of the Filipino people and the Republic;
- e. It shall regulate and license the business of travel agents; and
- f. It shall exercise supervision over the operation of all facilities and services that cater to or have anything to do with foreign travelers and tourists with a view to insuring the maintenance of the highest possible standards, reasonable charges, courtesy, honesty and efficiency.

SEC. 3. To carry out the aims and purposes of this Act, tax shall be collected on all fares of passengers leaving the country as well as fares for those returning or coming in if payable here, at the following rates:

- (a) If said passage costs not more than sixty pesos, seven pesos and fifty centavos.
- (b) If said passage costs more than sixty pesos and not more than one hundred twenty pesos, twelve pesos.
- (c) If said passage costs more than one hundred twenty pesos and not more than two hundred and fifty pesos, fifteen pesos.
- (d) If said passage costs more than two hundred and fifty pesos and not more than five hundred pesos, thirty pesos.
- (e) If said passage costs more than five hundred pesos, and not more one thousand pesos, fifty pesos.
- (f) If said passage costs more than one thousand pesos, one hundred pesos.

Section two hundred and twenty-eight of Commonwealth Act Numbered Four hundred and sixty-six, as amended, is repealed.

SEC. 4. This tax shall be collected from the passengers by the carriers and travel agencies issuing foreign travel passenger tickets and they, in turn, shall remit their collections within the first ten days of every succeeding quarter to the Board of Travel and Tourist Industry.

SEC. 5. An amount not in excess of 50 per cent of such collections and all those which may be effected under section six shall accrue to the funds of the Board to be spent under its authority exclusively for the development of tourist facilities and the promotion of tourism both within the country and abroad, through all well-known media but especially through foreign publicity and advertising. The other fifty percent shall accrue to the general funds of the Government and shall be accounted for and delivered by the Board of Travel and Tourist Industry to the Treasurer of the Philippines.

SEC. 6. The Board shall regulate the travel agency business, prescribing the necessary rules to govern their establishment and operation. It shall fix and collect an annual license fee from every individual or group engaged in the travel agency business in an amount not in excess one hundred pesos a year. No individual or firm engage in the travel agency business without being ft, censured by the Board of Travel and Tourist Industry.

SEC. 7. In the exercise of its supervisory powers over facilities and services catering to or having anything to do with foreign travellers and tourists, the Board shall prescribe rules and regulations for their operation and maintenance. In case of non-