

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Seventeenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3557



Introduced by Honorable Mark O. Go

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is the declared policy of the State to promote youth participation and development in the country. To this end, the Philippine Constitution recognizes the role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual and social well being. Sports tournaments, academic conferences and competitions, both local and international, are recognized as great venues where the youth of the country could excel and bring pride to their families, schools and the country. The same goes for winning representatives to international beauty pageants who proudly represented the Philippines.

Those who bring honor to the country should be given incentives such as the exemption from paying the travel tax when they travel abroad to join the aforementioned activities. The Philippine levies a travel tax of PHP 2,700 for first class passengers, PHP 1,620 for economy class passengers and reduced or privilege amounts depending on the classification. These amounts, while small for some, is already a burden for those travelling with a limited budget.

This representation believes that exempting students, athletes, academic conference participants and beauty pageant contestants from the payment of the travel tax will not adversely affect the country's travel tax collections which reached PHP 3.852 billion in 2014. This small incentive is one way of showing our full support behind our fellow Filipinos who seek glory in the name of the country.

In view of the foregoing, passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

MARK O. GO



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**AN ACT EXPANDING TRAVEL TAX EXEMPTION TO INCLUDE THE
COUNTRY'S REPRESENTATIVES TO INTERNATIONAL SPORTS
TOURNAMENTS, ACADEMIC CONFERENCES AND BEAUTY
PAGEANTS, AMENDING PD 1183 AS AMENDED**

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

Section 1. Section 2 of PD 1183 is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Sec. 2. The following shall be exempted from the payment of the travel tax imposed under Section one of this Decree by securing a Travel Tax Exemption Certificate from the Philippine Tourism Authority:

"a) Officials and employees of the Philippine Government or any of its departments, bureaus, and instrumentalities traveling on official business;

"b) Persons whose fares are paid out of Philippine Government funds;

"c) Foreign diplomatic and consular officials and members of their staff who are duly accredited to the Republic of the Philippines including the immediate members of their families and household domestics whose entry as such has been authorized by the Philippine Government;

"d) Officials, consultants, experts and employees of the United Nations organization and of its agencies, and those exempted under existing laws, treaties and international agreements;

"e) Personnel of multinational companies with regional headquarters at, but not engaged in business in the Philippines, and their dependents if joining them during the period of their assignment in the Philippines as certified to by the Department of Trade;

"f) Crew members of ships and airplanes plying international routes who are leaving the country to join their vessels or airplanes or to assume their positions therein;

"g) Filipino citizens who are permanent residents of foreign countries who have stayed in the Philippines for a period of not more than one (1) year;

"h) Bona-fide students whose studies have been approved by the NEDA Scholarship Committee and foreign students whose studies in the country is financed by their government or by an international organization;

"i) Infants who are two years old or less;

"j) Scientists and experts of any nationality invited by the Philippine Government in the interest of science and technology;

"k) Destitutes certified to by the Department of Social Services & Development as such needing medical treatment not available in the Philippines as certified to by the Department of Health, and whose fares are paid for by private individuals, charitable institutions and organizations;

"l) Those authorized by the President of the Philippines for reasons of national interest (.) ;

M) BONAFIDE STUDENTS WHO WILL REPRESENT THEIR SCHOOL AND THE COUNTRY TO INTERNATIONAL SPORTS TOURNAMENTS AND ACADEMIC COMPETITIONS, AS CERTIFIED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND/OR THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION;

N) PHILIPPINE REPRESENTATIVES TO ACADEMIC CONFERENCES ABROAD, AS CERTIFIED BY THEIR RESPECTIVE UNIVERSITIES AND THE COMMISSION ON HIGHER EDUCATION;

O) COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES TO INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENTS AND SPORTS EVENTS AS CERTIFIED BY THEIR RESPECTIVE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS AND/OR TOURNAMENT ORGANIZERS;

P) COUNTRY REPRESENTATIVES TO BEAUTY PAGEANTS AS CERTIFIED BY THEIR RESPECTIVE PAGEANT ORGANIZERS.”

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SEC. 2. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 3. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, orders, decrees, rules and regulations, and other parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 4. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,