

Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City



SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8470

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ALFRED VARGAS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

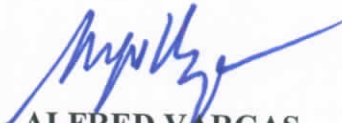
This bill seeks to establish Culture, Arts, Tourism and Heritage Councils in every province of the country.

The western thinker George Santayana wrote that nations who never learn from the lessons of the past are bound to repeat its mistakes.

While the National Commission on Culture and the Arts was created primarily for the purpose of developing, enhancing and institutionalizing arts and culture programs in the country, it is limited by organizational nature- an agency based in the country's capital with no bureaucratic network to expand its programs, projects and activities up to the grassroots level. Hence, at best, it could only enter into memoranda of agreement with local government units to fund a particular program or project with arts and culture component. Animating the citizenry with the love and passion for their culture, arts, tourism and heritage should be a responsibility of the local government units at the provincial and city level with the support of national agencies like the National Commission for Culture and the Arts, the National Museum, the National Historical Commission of the Philippines and the private sector.

While a number of local government units have taken the initiative of organizing arts, culture, tourism and heritage council, a vast number of our provinces which have rich untapped arts, culture and heritage wealth are not moving that consigning to the dustbins of history what should have been preserved, enhanced and developed for the next generation to enjoy.

Given the above premises, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


ALFRED VARGAS

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF CULTURE, ARTS, TOURISM AND
HERITAGE COUNCILS IN EVERY PROVINCE OF THE COUNTRY

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

SECTION 1. There is hereby created, in every province in the country, a Culture, Arts, Tourism and Heritage Council that shall undertake culture, arts, tourism and heritage preservation, enhancement and development.

SECTION 2. The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) shall assist in the creation of these councils and provide for its initial funding. The DILG shall, in coordination with relevant culture, arts, tourism and heritage agencies actively promote the creation of these councils.

SECTION 3. The subsequent allocation for the operationalization of these councils shall be borne by their respective local government units.

SECTION 4. Separability Clause. If, for any reason, any provision of this Act or the application of such provision to any person, group, and circumstance is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act shall not be affected by such declaration.

SECTION 5. Repealing Clause. The provisions of this, as amended and all other laws, decrees, executive order, rules and regulations, issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provision of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 6. Effectivity. This law shall take effect as soon as it is published in the Official Gazette.

Approved,