

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 786

Introduced by **HON. ROZZANO RUFINO B. BIAZON**

EXPLANATORY NOTE


This proposed measure seeks to mandate personnel of business establishments, members of organizations or associations and all other persons providing tourism services to undergo basic first aid training.

Tourism plays a vital role in the economy of our country as it creates income and generates jobs. According to the latest report of the World Travel and Tourism Council (WTTC) entitled "Travel and Tourism Economic Impact 2018," travel and tourism contributed around P3.35 trillion to the Philippine economy, accounting for about 21 percent of the country's gross domestic product (GDP). The same report attributes this contribution to the economic activity generated by industries such as hotels, travel agents, airlines and other passenger transportation as well as activities of the restaurant and leisure industries directly supported by tourists.

In order to sustain and further improve our gains in this industry, the country needs to ensure not only the development of vital infrastructures. We should also work towards equipping our people involved in this sector with the necessary skills and training to cater to the needs of travelers and tourists. Recently, there have been increasing reports of accidents involving tourists with varying results ranging from minor to fatal injuries. Clearly, safety of tourists is one critical concern that we need to address. The government needs to ensure that people engaged in tourism services must, at the very least, be trained in giving first aid to tourists who are victims of accidents. Moreover, first aid kits must also be readily available to ensure that the victims have a fighting chance of survival.

Promoting the Philippines as a top tourist destination should not only entail highlighting our beautiful and scenic spots, our hospitable people, and our rich history and culture. It should also involve promoting our country as one of the best destinations where tourists are assured of their safety.

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


ROZZANO RUFINO B. BIAZON
Representative
Lone District, Muntinlupa City

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AN ACT
REQUIRING PERSONNEL OF BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS, MEMBERS OF ORGANIZATIONS OR ASSOCIATIONS AND ALL OTHER PERSONS PROVIDING TOURISM SERVICES TO UNDERGO BASIC FIRST AID TRAINING.

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “*Tourist Safety Act.*”

Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy. – The State recognizes the importance of tourism to the economy of the country and in promoting goodwill among our people as well as with other peoples in the community of nations. It is therefore imperative to develop the necessary infrastructures and human resources that shall guarantee the promotion of sustainable tourism and the safety of tourists in the country. Toward this end, the State shall ensure that people providing tourism services be equipped with the necessary skills and training to achieve these objectives.

Sec. 3. First Aid Training Required. – Personnel of business establishments, members of organizations or associations and all other persons providing tourism services are hereby required to undergo basic first aid training. For the purposes of this Act, tourism services is defined as services rendered in order to cater to the needs of tourists which includes, but not limited to, services provided by hotels and restaurants, travel agencies and tour operator services, tourist guide services, surfing, scuba diving and other water sports lessons, and such other related services.

a. It shall be the duty of all business establishments involved in the tourism industry to ensure that all their personnel have undergone basic first aid training by the Philippine National Red Cross and other reputable organizations or institutions providing such training, who shall issue the necessary certifications for this purpose. Upon the effectivity of this Act, these business establishments shall submit a sworn statement attesting to the fact that all their personnel have undergone basic first aid training, as evidenced by individual certifications to this effect, to the concerned local government office as a requirement for the renewal of their business permits.

b. Members of organizations or associations and all other persons providing tourism services shall likewise be required to undergo basic first aid training by the Philippine National Red Cross and other reputable organizations or institutions providing such training who shall issue the necessary certifications for this purpose. Local government units shall cause the registration of such persons under their jurisdiction and coordinate with the Philippine National Red Cross or other reputable organizations or institutions providing basic first aid training in order that such training may be provided to these persons.

Sec. 4. *First Aid Kits.* – In order to ensure the safety of tourists, local government units shall ensure that all business establishments as well as members of organizations or associations and all other persons providing tourism services shall be equipped with first aid kits. They shall conduct periodic or regular inspections for this purpose.

Sec. 5. *Separability Clause.* – Should any provision of this Act be subsequently declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not so declared and not affected by such declaration shall remain in full force and effect.

Sec. 6. *Repealing Clause.* – All other laws, issuances, orders, rules and regulations which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

Sec. 7. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of national circulation.

Approved,