Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

COMMITTEE REPORT NO. 491

Submitted by the Committee on Tourism and the Committee on Appropriations on SEP 1 2 2020
Re : House Bill No. 7657
Recommending its approval in substitution of House Bill No. 1128
Sponsors : Representatives Sol Aragones, Eric Go Yap and Raul C. Tupas

Mr. Speaker:

The Committee on Tourism and the Committee on Appropriations, to which was referred House Bill No. 1128, introduced by Rep. Raul C. Tupas. entitled:

AN ACT
DECLARING THE ISLAS DE GIGANTES IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CARLES, PROVINCE OF ILOILO AS AN ECOTOURISM ZONE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

have considered the same and recommend that the attached House Bill No. 7657, entitled:

AN ACT
DECLARING THE ISLAS DE GIGANTES LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CARLES, PROVINCE OF ILOILO AN ECOTOURISM ZONE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

be approved in substitution of House Bill No. 1128 with Representative Raul C. Tupas, as author thereof.

Respectfully submitted,

REP. ERIC GO YAP
Chairperson
Committee on Appropriations

REP. SOL ARAGONES
Chairperson
Committee on Tourism

THE HONORABLE SPEAKER
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
QUEZON CITY
Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7657
(In Substitution of House Bill No. 1128)

Introduced by Representative Raul C. Tupas

AN ACT
DECLARING THE ISLAS DE GIGANTES LOCATED IN THE MUNICIPALITY OF CARLES, PROVINCE OF ILOILO, AN ECOTOURISM ZONE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

1. **SECTION 1.** This Act shall be known as the “Islas de Gigantes Ecotourism Zone Act.”

2. **SEC. 2.** It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote a tourism industry that is ecologically sustainable, responsible, participative, culturally-sensitive, economically viable and equitably beneficial to local communities.

3. **SEC. 3.** The Islas de Gigantes, consisting of four (4) barangays, namely, Asluman, Granada, Lantangan and Gabi, all located in the Municipality of Carles, Province of Iloilo, is hereby declared an ecotourism zone, to be known as the “Islas de Gigantes Ecotourism Zone”. As such, its development shall be prioritized by the Department of Tourism (DOT), subject to the rules and regulations governing the development of ecotourism zones.

Within six (6) months from the approval of this Act, the DOT, in coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Tourism Infrastructure and Enterprise Zone Authority (TIEZA) and the municipal government of Carles, shall
prepare and jointly implement the development plan for Islas de Gigantes, and shall
incorporate the same in the National Tourism Development Plan.

    The DOT, in coordination with the DENR, the TIEZA, the municipal government of
Carles and other concerned agencies of the government, shall delineate well-defined
geographic areas within the Islas de Gigantes Ecotourism Zone and coordinate the
integrated development of the area for the optimum use of natural assets and attractions.
The development shall ensure the preservation of the flora and fauna and perpetuate the
historic significance of the identified tourist attractions.

    **SEC. 4.** The Secretaries of the DOT and DENR shall include in their respective
Department’s program the implementation of this Act, the funding of which shall be
included in the annual General Appropriations Act and from internally generated funds of
the DOT.

    **SEC. 5.** Within sixty (60) days after the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the
DOT, in consultation with the DENR, the TIEZA and the municipal government of Carles,
shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this
Act.

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

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

    Approved,