

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Third Regular Session)

Office of the Secretary

24 AUG 19 P2:43

SENATE
S.B. No. 2791

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

**AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR A NEW VISA CATEGORY FOR DIGITAL
NOMADS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

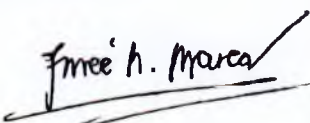
The Work-From-Home set-up is one of the positive effects of the pandemic. Many individuals claim that it boosted their productivity and maximized their work performance. A lot of employees were able to realize savings on expenses from transportation, gasoline, utilities, and other operating expenses. Time savings from the dreadful traffic plaguing urban areas were much appreciated by those working from home.

Digital improvements in telecommunications paved the way for these changes. Various countries have shifted to work-from-home set-ups. There is an emergence of a new breed of workers known as "digital nomads".

On 03 July 2024, during a meeting in Malacañang, members of the Private Sector Advisory Council for Tourism (PSAC-Tourism) urged President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. to immediately issue an executive order to allow the issuance of nomad or remote work visas. Further, President Marcos Jr. has backed the proposal to issue nomad visas to attract long-term foreign visitors to the country.

According to an article by Forbes dated 14 February 2024, "the digital nomad lifestyle offers a unique work experience that comes with the autonomy of not being chained to an office. Like the name implies, it affords professionals with the opportunity to work remotely while traveling freely. It requires smart planning, adaptability and personal drive to make it work for both the digital nomad and employer." Indeed, the increase of digital nomads in our country shall aid economic growth and boost tourism. We must take advantage of this emerging trend.

Thus, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


IMEE R. MARCOS

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

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “*Digital Nomad Visa*
2 *Act.*”
3

4 Sec. 2. *Definition of Terms.* – The following terms shall be defined in this Act,
5 as follows:

- 6 a. “Aliens” shall refer to individuals who are not citizens of the Republic of
7 the Philippines; and
8 b. “Digital Nomads” shall refer to individuals who work remotely using digital
9 technologies while travelling to different countries.

10
11 Sec. 3. *Digital Nomad Visa.* – An alien who is considered as a Digital Nomad
12 and employed in a country other than the Republic of the Philippines may, upon
13 making an application to the Bureau of Immigration, be granted a Digital Nomad
14 Visa for a period of one (1) year, renewable for another period of one (1) year,
15 subject to the following conditions:

- 16 a. Must be at least eighteen (18) years of age;
17 b. Must be a Digital Nomad, as defined in Section 2 of this Act;
18 c. Must show proof of sufficient income and that said income is generated
19 outside the Philippines;
20 d. Must hold a health insurance that is valid in the Philippines and valid for
21 the entire period for which the Digital Nomad Visa is granted;
22 e. Must not have any criminal record in his home country and in the
23 Philippines;
24 f. Must not pose a threat to the internal or external security of Philippines;
25 g. Must pay a fee which shall be determined by the Bureau of Immigration to
26 cover the cost of the processing fees for the issuance of the visa; and
27 h. Must pay the reasonable Entry and Exit Fee, the amount of which shall be
28 determined by the Bureau of Immigration.
29

1 Sec. 4. *Effect of Grant of Visa.* – An alien who has been granted a Digital
2 Nomad Visa shall not be deemed a resident of the Philippines for purposes of
3 taxation. The income that they shall be receiving from the employer overseas, while
4 in the country, shall not be considered income from Philippine sources; Provided
5 that, an alien who shall be granted with the Digital Nomad Visa shall not be allowed
6 to be employed within the Philippines.
7

8 Sec. 5. *Revocation of Visa.* – The Bureau of Immigration may revoke the
9 Digital Nomad Visa if the holder shall violate any of the terms and/or conditions of
10 the visa or shall no longer be qualified to be a holder of the same, as may be
11 determined by the Bureau of Immigration and in accordance with this Act.
12

13 Sec. 6. *Database of Digital Nomad Visa.* – A database of all individuals issued
14 with a Digital Nomad Visa shall be created. It shall also contain other information as
15 the Bureau of Immigration shall deem necessary.
16

17 Sec. 7. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the implementation of
18 this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.
19

20 Sec. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) calendar
21 days after the effectivity of this Act, the Bureau of Immigration (BI), in consultation
22 with the Department of Justice (DOJ), shall formulate the implementing rules and
23 regulations necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act.
24

25 Sec. 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or
26 other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are
27 hereby repealed or modified accordingly.
28

29 Sec. 10. *Separability Clause.* – If any portion or provision of this Act is
30 declared unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provision not affected
31 thereby shall remain in force and effect.
32

33 Sec. 11. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days
34 following the completion of its publication either in the Official Gazette or in a
35 newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,