



Republic of the Philippines
PROVINCE OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL
OFFICE OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN
South Wing, Provincial Capitol Building
South Capitol Road, Bacolod City, Negros Occidental 6100
Tel. Nos. 435-7698 * 433-4894 * 707-8075

EXCERPT FROM THE MINUTES OF THE REGULAR SESSION OF THE SANGGUNIANG PANLALAWIGAN OF NEGROS OCCIDENTAL HELD IN THE CITY OF BACOLOD, NEGROS OCCIDENTAL ON THE 28TH DAY OF JANUARY 2025.

Present:

Hon. Mayvelyn L. Madrid
Hon. Rommel T. Debulgado
Hon. Araceli T. Somosa
Hon. Sixto Teofilo Roxas V. Guanzon, Jr.
Hon. Samson C. Mirhan
Hon. Manuel Frederick O. Ko
Hon. Andrew Gerard L. Montelibano
Hon. Jose Benito A. Alonso
Hon. Rita Angela S. Gatuslao
Hon. Valentino Miguel J. Alonso
Hon. Julius Martin D. Asistio

Temporary Presiding Officer
Member - 1st District
Member - 1st District
Member - 2nd District
Member - 2nd District
Member - 3rd District
Member - 3rd District
Member - 4th District
Member - 5th District
Member - 6th District
Member-PCL

On Official Business:

Hon. Jeffrey P. Ferrer
Hon. Andrew Martin Y. Torres
Hon. Anthony Dennis J. Occeño
Hon. Jeffrey T. Tubola
Hon. Richard Julius L. Sablan

Vice Governor
Member - 4th District
Member - 5th District
Member - 6th District
Member - ABC

RESOLUTION NO. 0145
Series of 2025

RESOLUTION DECLARING, ORDINANCE NO. 008, SERIES OF 2024 OF THE MUNICIPALITY OF PONTEVEDRA LOCALIZING RA NO. 11313, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "SAFE SPACES ACT" AND PROVIDING ADDITIONAL DEFINITIONS OF GENDER-BASED SEXUAL HARASSMENT, PROTECTIVE MEASURES AND PENALTIES, IN ADDENDUM TO MUNICIPAL ORDINANCE NO. 2023-004, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS GENDER AND DEVELOPMENT CODE, AS A VALID ENACTED ORDINANCE

WHEREAS, Section 56 of the Local Government Code of 1991 expresses the reviewing power of the Sangguniang Bayan on Component City and Municipal Ordinances and Resolutions declaring the Ordinance or Resolution valid if it's consistent with the law or invalid in whole or in part if the Sangguniang Panlalawigan finds the Ordinance or Resolution to be beyond the power conferred upon the Sangguniang Panlungsod or Sangguniang Bayan concerned;

WHEREAS, Municipal Ordinance No. 008, series of 2024 of the Municipality of Pontevedra localizing RA No. 11313, otherwise known as the "Safe Spaces Act" and providing additional definitions of gender-based sexual harassment, protective measures and penalties, in addendum to Municipal Ordinance No. 2023-004, otherwise known as Gender and Development Code, was submitted for review by the Municipality of Pontevedra to the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Negros Occidental;

WHEREAS, after prompt examination by the Provincial Legal Office, it is the recommendation of the said Office that the subject Ordinance is within the conferred power of the Sangguniang Bayan of Pontevedra to enact, thus, the same may be given due course by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan;

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(Page 2, Res. 0145, series of 2025)

WHEREAS, Section 8 of Republic Act (RA) 11313, otherwise known as the "Safe Spaces Act," mandates Local Government Units (LGUs) to localize its implementation within their respective jurisdictions. The Act requires LGUs to pass ordinances that define gender-based sexual harassment (GBSH) in streets and public spaces, establish preventive measures, prescribe penalties for such acts, and set up institutional mechanisms, including Anti-Sexual Harassment Desks in barangays;

WHEREAS, the Local Government Code of 1991 (RA 7160) provides additional legal support through the following provisions:

"Section 16. General Welfare. - Every local government unit shall exercise the powers expressly granted, those necessarily implied therefrom, as well as powers necessary, appropriate, or incidental for its efficient and effective governance, and those which are essential to the promotion of the general welfare. Within their respective territorial jurisdictions, local government units shall ensure and support, among other things, the preservation and enrichment of culture, promote health and safety, enhance the right of the people to a balanced ecology, encourage and support the development of appropriate and self-reliant scientific and technological capabilities, improve public morals, enhance economic prosperity and social justice, promote full employment among their residents, maintain peace and order, and preserve the comfort and convenience of their inhabitants."

Section 17(b)(2)(iv): "Social welfare services which include programs and projects on child and youth welfare, family and community welfare, women's welfare, welfare of the elderly and disabled persons; community-based rehabilitation programs for vagrants, beggars, street children, scavengers, juvenile delinquents, and victims of drug abuse; livelihood and other pro-poor projects; nutrition services; and family planning services."

WHEREAS, the ordinance also aligns with the Magna Carta of Women (RA 9710), which mandates the State to protect women against all forms of violence and ensure their safety and dignity in public and private spaces;

WHEREAS, Municipal Ordinance No. 008, Series of 2024, seeks to address the pressing issue of gender-based sexual harassment in public spaces within the Municipality of Pontevedra. By localizing the Safe Spaces Act, the ordinance provides mechanisms to prevent and penalize acts of harassment while promoting a culture of safety, inclusivity, and respect for all individuals, especially women and vulnerable groups;

WHEREAS, the ordinance complies with the six (6) generally accepted principles for a valid ordinance, as adopted by the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Negros Occidental, which are:

1. It must not contravene the Constitution or any statute.
2. It must not be unfair or oppressive.
3. It must not be partial or discriminatory.
4. It must not prohibit but may regulate trade.
5. It must be general and consistent with public policy.
6. It must not be unreasonable.

WHEREAS, the reviewing authority of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan finds no irregularity that follow thereto as a result of the thorough scrutiny of the Provincial Legal Officer;

NOW THEREFORE, premises considered, on motion of Hon. Sixto Teofilo Roxas V. Guanzon, Jr. unanimously seconded by all the members present during the regular session of the Sangguniang Panlalawigan of Negros Occidental, resolved, as it hereby resolves, to pass and approve this resolution to wit:



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ADOPTED UNANIMOUSLY.

This resolution shall take effect immediately upon approval.

CERTIFIED CORRECT:


HON. MAYVELYN L. MADRID
Temporary Presiding Officer

ATTESTED:


ATTY. MAKI ANGELO O. ASCALON
Provincial Secretary

Copy for: all concerned
Res2024@semmary