

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )



'10 NOV 23 P3:38

SENATE  
S. No 2610

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Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Presently, the Philippines is dependent on imported crude oil for our country's energy needs. However, the prices of traditional sources of energy continue to soar. The government utilized other sources of energy such as hydroelectric and geothermal energy but sadly these are not enough to supply our energy needs. There is, therefore, a need to explore and develop other alternative sources of energy in order to solve our current energy crisis.

As stated in Section 10, Article XIV of the 1987 Constitution, "Science and Technology are essential for national development and progress. The State shall give priority to research and development, invention, innovation, and their utilization to science and technology education, training and services. It shall support indigenous appropriate and self-reliant scientific and technological capabilities and their application to the country's capabilities and their application to the productive system and national life."

The Philippines has a total of 36,289 km of coastline and is surrounded by different bodies of water. As such, the Philippines' geographical location may prove to be conducive to the establishment of Ocean Energy as it is surrounded by abundant bodies of water. Ocean Energy can be tapped as an inexhaustible, cheap, and environmentally safe source of energy. Also, due to the advancement in technology, these alternative sources of energy are becoming more competitive economically with traditional sources of energy.

Since Ocean Energy is a relatively new technology in the country, its potential use as an economical, safe and efficient energy source is generally unknown to the consuming public. It is therefore, necessary to create a government entity that would initiate and promote public acceptance of this new technology. Hence, this bill seeks to establish the Ocean Energy Development Authority that would initiate and promote the use and development of Ocean Energy in the country. It is envisioned that with the use of Ocean Energy the country will be able to address the growing energy demands of the society as well as to promote consciousness among the Filipino people in protecting the environment.

Hence, approval of this bill is earnestly requested.

ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV  
Senator

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**AN ACT**  
**ESTABLISHING THE OCEAN ENERGY DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY AND**  
**APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representative of the Philippines in Congress Assembled:*

1           **SECTION 1.** There is hereby created the Ocean Energy Development Authority  
2 hereinafter referred to as the "Authority" which shall undertake to do researches and promote the  
3 development and utilization of ocean energy.  
4

5           **SEC. 2.** The powers and functions of the Authority shall be vested in a Board of  
6 Directors consisting of a Chairman and four (4) members who shall be appointed by the  
7 President of the Philippines with the consent of the Commission on Appointments. The chairman  
8 and the two (2) members shall serve for a term of four (4) years, while the remaining two (2)  
9 members shall be an ex-officio members, who shall be composed of the Secretary of Energy and  
10 the Secretary of Science and Technology. They shall receive compensation as may be fixed by  
11 the President of the Philippines which shall not exceed with those given to Commissioners of a  
12 Constitutional Body. No person shall be appointed Chairman or members of the board unless he  
13 is a natural born Filipino citizen at least thirty (30) years of age, of good moral character, and  
14 must be of recognized competence in the fields of science and technology.

1           **SEC. 3.** The Board of Directors shall have the following duties and responsibilities:

- 2           a) Prepare and issue rules and regulations as it considers necessary for the effective  
3           discharge of its function:
- 4           b) Direct the management, operations, and administration of the authority;
- 5           c) Adopt and use corporate seal;
- 6           d) Make contracts;
- 7           e) Sue and be sued;
- 8           f) Appoint such officers and employees as are not otherwise provided for in this Act, to  
9           define their duties, fix their compensation, discipline, and dismiss anyone of them for  
10          cause, subject to the Civil Service Commission rules and regulations;
- 11          g) Exercise such incidental powers as shall be necessary to carry on the functions of the  
12          authority.

13

14          **SEC. 4.** The Authority shall have the following powers and functions:

- 15          a) Conduct extensive research on the different types and sources of Ocean Energy;
- 16          b) Formulate a comprehensive policy for the research, development, and utilization of  
17          Ocean Energy;
- 18          c) Implement the government program on the allocation, distribution, and sale of the  
19          different Ocean Energy Resources;
- 20          d) Perform such other powers and functions as may be necessary to carry out the  
21          provisions of this Act.

22

23          **SEC. 5.** The chairman shall be the Chief Operating Officer. In case of absence or  
24          whenever the Chairman is unable to act, the Board shall designate who among its members shall  
25          act as the Chairman.

1           **SEC. 6.** The amount necessary for the effective implementation of this Act shall be  
2 charged to the appropriation for the Department of Science and Technology under the current  
3 General Appropriation Act. Thereafter such sum as may be necessary for continuous operation of  
4 the Authority shall be included in the annual General Appropriation Act.

5  
6           **SEC. 7.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official*  
7 *Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,