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EXPLANATORY NOTE

According to Article II, Section 16 of the 1987 Constitution:

"The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature. "

Clean, safe, potable water is indispensable to our state and society. Because of natural conditions and the quantities consumed, its supply is often publicly exposed and readily accessible to those who might wish to cause mass harm to a society. Because of its critical nature, when even a few days interruption in its supply could be cataclysmic, it is a highly attractive target to terrorists. As a result, special precautions and targeted measures need to be taken to protect and defend this precious resource.

This bill would severely punish the poisoning or adulteration of a water supply and will send a strong message that we will take whatever strong measures are necessary to protect our citizens.

AUNTRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIGO

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## AN ACT PUNISHING THE DEFILEMENT OF WATER SUPPLY

1 Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in Congress 2 assembled:

3 SECTION 1. *Definition*. As used in this Act:

4 (A) "Water Supply" means any public or private transmission facility, source of supply facility,
5 well or reservoir, which provides potable water for residential, commercial, industrial and/or fire
6 service needs.

(B) "Defiling Agent" means any chemical, biological, or radioactive agent or substance, which is
capable, when introduced or placed into a water supply, of causing sickness, physical injury,
severe disfigurement, or death of a human being, or causing irreparable harm to such water
supply, or causing a disturbance to the public peace.

11 SECTION 2. *Crime.* A person is guilty of unlawful defilement of water when he 12 intentionally introduces, places, or causes to be introduced or placed into a water supply, a 13 defiling agent with the intent to cause the sickness, physical injury, severe disfigurement or death 14 of another human being, or with reckless disregard of causing sickness, physical injury, severe 15 disfigurement, or death of another human being, or with the intent to cause irreparable harm to 16 such water supply, or to disturb the public peace.

17 SECTION 3. *Penalty*. Any person violating this Act shall be penalized with 18 imprisonment of not less than thirty years but not more than fifty years. A fine of not less than 19 P1, 000,000.00 but not more than P5, 000,000.00 shall also be imposed.

20 SECTION 4. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or 21 parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or 22 modified accordingly.

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SECTION 5. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days
 following its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.
 Approved,

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