

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

Senate
Office of the Secretary

12 MAR -8 25:13

SENATE
S. No. 3147

REC'D BY: *Per*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Amateur radio operators provide a valuable public service to their communities in the area of national disaster communications. Emergency and disaster relief communications services by volunteer radio operators have been provided before, during, and after floods, fires, earthquakes, typhoons, and other disasters. Amateur radio, at no cost to taxpayers, provides a fertile ground for technical self-training in modern telecommunications, electronic technology, and emergency communications techniques and protocols.

There is a strong government interest in the effective performance of amateur radio, and that performance must be given support at all levels of government and given protection against unreasonable regulation and impediments to the provision of these valuable communications.

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Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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AN ACT
PROMOTING AND ENCOURAGING THE VALUABLE PUBLIC SERVICE, DISASTER
RELIEF, AND EMERGENCY COMMUNICATIONS PROVIDED ON A VOLUNTEER
BASIS BY AMATEUR RADIO LICENSEES OF THE NATIONAL
TELECOMMUNICATIONS COMMISSION

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Amateur Radio Emergency Enhancement Act of 2012.”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to promote and encourage the valuable public service, disaster relief, and emergency communications provided on a volunteer basis by amateur radio licensees of the National Telecommunications Commission. Toward this end, reasonable accommodation should be made for the effective operation of amateur radio from residences, private vehicles, and public areas, and the regulation at all levels of government should facilitate and encourage amateur radio operation as a public benefit.

SECTION 3. *Study of Enhanced Uses of Amateur Radio in Emergency and Disaster Relief Communications, and for Relief of Restrictions.* – (a) The Commissioner of the National Telecommunications Commission —

- (1) shall undertake a study on the uses and capabilities of Amateur Radio communications in emergencies and disaster relief; and
 - (2) shall report its findings to Congress not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.
- (b) The study required by this section shall —
- (1) include recommendations—

- (A) for enhancements in the voluntary deployment of Amateur Radio licensees in disaster and emergency communications and disaster relief efforts; and
 - (B) for improved integration of Amateur Radio operators in planning and in furtherance of the Department of National Defense and National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (NDDRMC) initiatives;
- (2) (A) identify unreasonable or unnecessary impediments to enhanced Amateur Radio communications, such as the effects of private land use regulations on residential antenna installations; and make recommendations regarding such impediments.
- (c) In conducting the study required by this section, the Commissioner shall seek information from private and public sectors for the study, and utilize the expertise of groups representing the national amateur radio community.

SECTION 4. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision, or part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 5. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

SECTION 6. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

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