

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC  
OF THE PHILIPPINES  
*First Regular Session*



Senate  
Office of the Secretary

13 AUG 13 P 3:08

SENATE

S. No. 1273

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

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### EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Earth Hour is an annual worldwide activity that aims to raise awareness on the need to take a stand on climate change by turning off non-essential lights for an hour, from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., every last Saturday of March. The first time the Philippines participated in Earth Hour, there was a registered drop in power consumption by about 78.63 megawatts in Metro Manila and up to 102.2 megawatts in Luzon. The Philippines has been recognized as being the top participant in Earth Hour with 1,671 cities, municipalities, towns, and provinces joining the event.

Participation in this global initiative supports state policy as set out in Section 16 of Article II of the Constitution, stating that "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". It is therefore state policy to enact measures that will help resuscitate a failing environment by rousing the consciousness of its citizens on efforts geared towards environmental conservation and protection.

This proposed measure seeks to raise awareness on climate change by requiring everyone to turn off their non-essential lights for one hour every last Saturday of the month from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., during which the demand for energy consumption shall be limited, therefore optimistically reducing the production of greenhouse gases

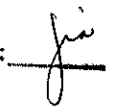
In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly requested.

**MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID**  
*Senator* 



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AN ACT  
DECLARING THE LAST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH AS EARTH HOUR.

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

1           **SECTION 1.** *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Monthly Earth Hour  
2 Act of 2013."

3  
4           **SEC. 2.** *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to  
5 reaffirm the fundamental right of every person to a balanced and healthful ecology in  
6 accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.

7  
8           **SEC. 3.** *Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Campaign.* - The  
9 Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Department of  
10 Education (DepEd), the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the  
11 Philippine Information Agency (PIA), in coordination with Non-governmental  
12 Organizations (NGOs), shall conduct a nationwide information, education, and  
13 communication (IEC) campaign in order to inform the general public of and raise  
14 awareness on the need to conserve energy as a means to combat climate change and  
15 other related environmental concerns by promoting the practice of turning off non-  
16 essential lights for one hour every last Saturday of the month from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30  
17 p.m.

18  
19           **SEC. 4.** *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).* - Within six (6) months  
20 from the date of effectivity of this Act, the DENR, in consultation with the DepEd and the  
21 DILG, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations necessary to implement  
22 the provisions of this Act.

23

1           **SEC. 5. Appropriations Clause.** - The amount necessary to implement the  
2 provisions of this Act shall be included in the general annual appropriations of the year  
3 when it is enacted into law.

4  
5           **SEC. 6. Separability Clause.** - If any provision or part of this Act is held invalid or  
6 unconstitutional, other provisions or parts thereof not otherwise affected shall remain  
7 valid and subsisting.

8  
9           **SEC. 7. Repealing Clause.**- All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders,  
10 rules and regulations, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this  
11 Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

12  
13           **SEC. 8. Effectivity Clause.**- This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
14 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general  
15 circulation.

***Approved,***