

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE }  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES }  
*First Regular Session*

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
'04 JUN 30 P 7:59

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**SENATE**

S. No. 596

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INTRODUCED BY HON. MANUEL B. VILLAR JR.

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

An incurable new strain of water borne cholera is threatening the country. Medical scientists call it fibro choleras non-0139, and is said to be widespread in the countryside, particularly in areas where there are inadequate sources of potable water. Six hundred four (604) cases of fibro choleras non-0139 have been reported and a number have already died.

At present, no medical remedy can cure the disease. There are no vaccines to immunize people against it. The only definitive solution to stop the spread of this disease is to have a clean supply of drinking water. There is therefore a need to build sanitary water systems and other facilities as a preventive measure for this epidemic. Such facilities will prevent not only cholera, but other water-borne diseases as well.

This bill seeks to develop a three-year program for the construction of a potable water supply system in every barangay throughout the country. Providing a clean water supply source in rural areas is important in order to prevent the outbreak of cholera and other water-borne diseases.

This bill will realize the long-time dream of the barrio folks, including the few families who manage to afford electric pumps despite exorbitant electric bills, in obtaining a modern and potable water system in their area.

Approval of this bill is earnestly requested.

  
MANUEL B. VILLAR, JR.

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**AN ACT**

**TO PROMOTE RURAL HEALTH BY PROVIDING FOR AN ACCELERATED  
PROGRAM FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A POTABLE WATER  
SUPPLY SYSTEM IN EVERY BARANGAY IN THE COUNTRY  
WITHIN THREE YEARS**

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

1       **SECTION 1. Policy** – It is hereby declared to be the policy of the State to promote the  
2 quality of health of every Filipino through the provision of adequate social services including, bu  
3 not limited to, the provision of an adequate potable water supply system to minimize the  
4 exposure of water borne disease.

5  
6       **SECTION 2. Lead Agency** – The Department of Social Welfare and Development in  
7 coordination with the Department of Health and the Department of Public Works and Highways  
8 shall undertake a three year program for the construction of potable water supply system in every  
9 barangay throughout the country. The program shall give priority to areas with social and health  
10 problems brought about by water-borne diseases taking into consideration population, area  
11 served, project cost and other economic, social and environmental factors as may be deemed  
12 necessary in undertaking the program within the context of the national development plans. The  
13 lead agencies concerned, in consultation with the provincial and municipal development  
14 councils, shall determine the areas which shall be given priority.

1           **SECTION 3. *Program Guidelines*** – The lead agencies concerned shall observe the  
2 following priorities and guidelines in the planning, construction and management of potable  
3 water supply projects:

- 4           a. Funds provided for in this Act shall be used only for the construction of the new  
5           potable water supply system;
- 6           b. Priority shall be given to the construction of communal water supply;
- 7           c. The potable water supply projects must be equitably distributed among the provinces  
8           and municipalities, giving priority to those provinces and municipalities having  
9           inadequate supply of potable water;
- 10          d. The local government unit concerned shall participate in all stages of the project. The  
11          local government shall participate in the project planning, identification, design,  
12          management of the project funds, construction and monitoring;
- 13          e. The potable water supply system shall be managed and maintained by the local  
14          government unit concerned;
- 15          f. The provincial offices of the Department of Social Welfare and Development,  
16          Department of Health, and Department of Public Works and Highways, shall be  
17          responsible in the preparation of feasibility studies and design of communal potable  
18          water supply projects.

19  
20           **SECTION 4. *Appropriation*** – The sum of Fifty Million Pesos (50,000,000.00) is  
21 hereby appropriated for the initial implementation of the provision of this Act. Thereafter, the  
22 succeeding appropriations for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual  
23 General Appropriations Act until the program shall have been completed.

24  
25           **SECTION 5. *Separability Clause*** – If any provision of this Act is held unconstitutional,  
26 other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force  
27 and effect.

28  
29           **SECTION 6 *Repealing Clause*** – All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations and  
30 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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32           **SECTION 7. *Effectivity*** - This act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication  
33 in the official Gazette or two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

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35           Approved,  
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