

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES,
First Regular Session

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SENATE

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S. No. 723

INTRODUCED BY HON. MANUEL B. VILLAR JR.


EXPLANATORY NOTE

Under present laws, workers are entitled to health, safety and social welfare benefits (Articles 156--209, Labor Code, as amended; and P.D. 1146, as amended). They are also entitled to weekly rest periods (Article 91, Labor Code) to rejuvenate them both mentally and physically.

Under prevailing urban conditions, however, it appears that enjoyment by workers and their families of their rest days have been less than pleasurable. Even a cursory survey of the urban landscapes reveals that there are no accessible and affordable public places or parks where the workers and their families could enjoy themselves during their periods of rest and recreation. Under the present conditions, workers and their families are constrained to go "mall" in the various metropolitan shopping centers whose open areas afford them some breathing spaces.

This Bill seeks to establish public recreational parks in the major urban centers as the government's initial response to the demand for such facilities.

Passage of this Bill is earnestly recommended.


MANUEL B. VILLAR, JR.

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
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SENATE

S. No. 723

INTRODUCED BY HON. MANUEL B. VILLAR JR.

**AN ACT ESTABLISHING PUBLIC RECREATIONAL PARKS IN MAJOR URBAN
AREAS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy. - It is here by declared a policy of the government to provide adequate social services, promote social justice and the welfare of the workers and their families.

SEC. 2. Establishment of Public Recreational Parks. - Pursuant to the policy enunciated in Section 1 hereof, there is hereby established and maintained at least one (1) Public Recreational Park in every major urban center including, but not limited to, Metro Manila, Metro Cebu and Metro Davao. Such Public Recreational Park shall comprise a picnic area and such other outdoor and indoor sports, health and recreational facilities as may be determined by the administering body hereafter designated in consultation with the appropriate government agencies, and workers' and employers groups.

SEC. 3. Administering Body. - The President of the Philippines is hereby authorized to designate the administering government body to operate and maintain the public recreational parks herein established. Such administering body shall make such public recreational parks available to the workers and their families and the public at large at reasonable cost.

SEC. 4. Tax Exemptions. - Notwithstanding any provision of law to the contrary, the income, properties, gifts, donations and contributions that may be received by the administering body for the exclusive use and benefit of such public recreational parks shall be free from taxes, duties and other assessments. Provided, that such gifts, donations and contributions shall likewise be deductible from the taxable income of the donor.

SEC. 5. Funding. - For the effective implementation of this Act, the government shall allocate the following funds:

- a. Thirty percent (30%) of the gross earnings of the Philippine Tourism Authority; and
- b. Such amounts as may be determined by the respective governing Boards of the Overseas Workers Welfare Administration and Employees Compensation Commission.

SEC. 6. Separability Clause. - If any provision of this Act or the application of such provision to, any person or circumstance is held invalid for any reason, the remainder of this Act or the application of such provision to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

SEC. 7. Repealing Clause. - All laws, orders, issuances, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,