

13TH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

'04 JUL -6 A11:37

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: _____

S. BILL NO. 1377

Introduced by Senator Ralph G. Recto

Explanatory Note

People can fast and survive for weeks without food, but it is impossible for our bodies to last more than a week without water. Water is undeniably a very important resource which everybody utilizes and benefits from. Unfortunately it is also a finite resource which is slowly being exhausted due to population explosion, economic growth, industrial development and the continuing threat of the El Niño phenomenon.

These developments have made it increasingly necessary for government to intervene actively in improving the management of our country's water resources. And thus, P.D. 1067, otherwise known as the "Water Code of the Philippines" was enacted to govern the ownership, appropriation, utilization, exploitation, development, conservation and protection of water resources.

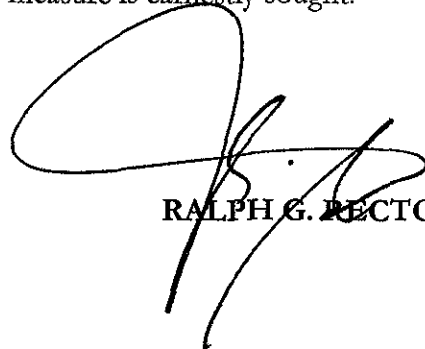
Three years prior to the issuance of P.D. 1067, P.D. 198 or the "Provincial Water Utilities Act of 1973" authorized the formation and operation of independent locally controlled public water districts that enjoy technical and funding support on the national level.

Existing water utilities have endeavored to meet the needs of the communities they service even as they give the consumers equal right to the water system. Unfortunately however, most barangays hosting the water source do not enjoy adequate supply of water even for domestic use. In order to give back to the barangays which serve as water sources, it should be incumbent upon the government to grant them special privileges.

Thus, this bill seeks to provide a 20% reduction in the water rates and charges applicable to the consumers of the barangays hosting the water source.

Access to safe drinking water and efficient water resources need not come at exorbitant costs.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this measure is earnestly sought.



RALPH G. RECTO

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AN ACT

REDUCING THE WATER RATES AND CHARGES FOR WATER USERS IN THE BARANGAY/S HOSTING THE WATER SOURCE WITHIN A WATER DISTRICT THEREBY AMENDING SECTION 37, CHAPTER IX, TITLE II OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 198 AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 37, Chapter IX, Title II of Presidential Decree No. 198 as
2 amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

3 “SEC. 37. Rates and Charges. – Water – A district may sell water under its
4 control, under schedules of rates and charges as may be determined by the Board, to
5 any and all water users within the district: **PROVIDED, THAT SUCH RATES**
6 **AND CHARGES APPLICABLE TO THE WATER USERS IN THE**
7 **BARANGAY/S HOSTING THE WATER SOURCE SHALL BE 20%**
8 **LOWER THAN THE RATES AND CHARGES APPLICABLE TO THE**
9 **OTHER WATER USERS WITHIN THE DISTRICT.** Said schedule may
10 provide for differential rates for different categories of use and different quantity
11 blocks. The district, as far as practicable, shall fix such rates and charges for water
12 as will result in revenues which will:

13 X X X

14 SEC. 2. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,