

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)**



'22 JUL 12 A10 :58

SENATE
S.B. No. 342

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

**AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING RAINWATER HARVESTING SYSTEM
IN METRO MANILA AND MAJOR CITIES IN THE PHILIPPINES AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Rainwater is one of the oldest sources of water which can provide the needed water supply for humanity's survival. Aside from being free, the Philippines, being a tropical country, has abundant rainwater supply. In fact, rainwater harvesting can be traced back to the 9th to 10th century.

In 2012, the State of California passed the Rainwater Capture Act, authorizing residential, commercial and governmental landowners to install, maintain and operate rain barrel systems and rainwater capture systems for specified purposes, provided that the systems comply with specified requirements.¹

Persisting water shortage in the country means municipalities, businesses and private citizens alike must remain ever conscious of potable water conservation. Collecting rainwater allows for the conservation of potable water for drinking.

This bill seeks to institutionalize a rainwater harvesting system in the country that will supplement water supply and a contingency during water shortage or interruptions.

In view of the foregoing, the prompt passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY

¹ State of California Rainwater Capture Act of 2012.

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "*Rainwater Harvesting
Facility Act.*"

SEC 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared a policy of the State to
maximize the use of natural resources by ensuring a mechanism that will promote,
regulate and sustain its utilization such as rainwater. If properly managed, it can
supplement the dwindling water supply and prevent flash flooding.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* - As used in this Act, the following terms shall
mean:

- (a) "*Rainwater harvesting*" refers to the accumulation and deposition of
rainwater for reuse on-site and water collected is redirected to a deep
pit, a reservoir with percolation and provides an independent water
supply during water restrictions and shortages or to supplement the
main supply.
- (b) "*Rainwater harvesting system*" refers to the process of collecting
rainwater and then storing it for domestic use such as irrigation, laundry,
flushing and with additional treatment as drinking water.
- (c) "*Rainwater*" is liquid water in form of droplets that have condensed
from atmospheric water vapor and the precipitated to become heavy
enough to fall under gravity.
- (d) "*Rainwater catchment*" is an area where rainwater is collected.

1 SEC. 4. *Institutionalization.* - A rainwater harvesting system is hereby
2 institutionalized in metro manila and major cities in the Republic of the Philippines.
3 This is to adapt and implement programs that promote sustainability and maximization
4 of natural resources and in consonance with the commitment and realization by the
5 Philippine government of the benefits of green technologies.
6

7 SEC. 5. *Installation of Rainwater Catchment.* - Rainwater catchment or storage
8 tanks shall be installed and constructed in all the barangays of metro manila and major
9 cities in the Republic of the Philippines through a technology that uses materials that
10 will not leach toxins into water under either normal or acid rain conditions and water
11 storage tanks that are not susceptible to contaminants. While considering cost-
12 efficiency of materials to be used, the safety of the users is pivotal.
13

14 SEC. 6. *Rainwater Treatment.* - To ensure the quality of rainwater for drinking
15 purposes, it shall undergo filtration and purification mechanism to make water potable
16 and safe. A rainwater treatment device shall also be installed in order for rainwater to
17 be safe for drinking.
18

19 SEC. 7. *Operation and Maintenance.* - The operation and maintenance shall be
20 invested upon the barangay government headed by a Chairman to ensure proper
21 distribution and utilization and ensure regular cleaning and inspection of the gutters
22 and down-pipes and removal of dirt, leaves and other accumulated materials.
23 Additional care is required to avoid damage and contamination by people and animals.
24

25 SEC. 8. *Monitoring and Evaluation.* - The Department of Interior and Local
26 Government (DILG) shall conduct regular monitoring and evaluation on the safety of
27 the water for domestic use.
28

29 Sec. 9. *Appropriations.* - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of
30 this Act shall be included in the infrastructure projects of the concerned government
31 agency or agencies.
32

33 Sec. 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The Department of Public
34 Works and Highways and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, in
35 consultation with the local chief executive and the legislative representative, shall
36 formulate the guidelines to fully implement the provisions of this Act.
37

38 SEC. 11. *Separability Clause.* - Should any provision herein be declared
39 unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity of the other provisions of this
40 Act.
41

42 SEC. 12. *Repealing Clause.* - This Act repeals or modifies accordingly pertinent
43 provisions of Sections 2, 3, and 4 of Republic Act No. 6959 and any law, decree, order,
44 rule, and regulation, executive order, proclamation, or other issuances or parts
45 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified
46 accordingly.

1 Sec. 13. *Effectivity.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
2 publication in the Official Gazette or two (2) newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,