

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )

8 MAY 28 2011

SENATE  
S. No. 2334

APPROVED: *[Signature]*

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 16, of the Constitution provides:

“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”

Of 312 species of seabirds, some 111 species, or 36 percent, are known to mistakenly ingest plastic. Likewise, plastic particles are regularly eaten by sea turtles. A floating garbage bag looks like a jellyfish to a turtle. The plastic clogs the turtle's intestines, robbing the animals of vital nutrients, and has been the cause of untold turtle losses to starvation. All seven of the world's sea turtle species suffer mortality from both plastic ingestion and plastic entanglement.


The release of large quantities of helium-filled, latex or mylar balloons has become a popular method of celebration and advertisement. This results in litter on land and sea. Placing statutory limitations on the quantity of balloons that may be launched on a daily basis will reduce litter and protect the marine environment.

*Miriam Defensor Santiago*  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
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8 MAY 28 AM 21

SENATE  
S. No. **2334**

RECEIVED BY: 

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*Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago*

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1 AN ACT  
2 PROHIBITING THE RELEASE OF CERTAIN BALLOONS

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

5 SECTION 1. *Release of Certain Balloons Prohibited* – No business, firm, corporation,  
6 or association shall knowingly or intentionally cause to be released or knowingly or intentionally  
7 release at any single outdoor celebration, promotional activity, sporting, or other public event  
8 within a twenty-four hour (24) period more than twenty-five (25) balloons filled with helium or  
9 other substances which causes the balloon to rise or float in the atmosphere.

10 SECTION 2. *Exceptions* – This Act shall not apply to :

- 11 A) Balloons which are used for the purpose of carrying scientific instrumentation  
12 during the performance of an experiment or testing procedure or by a person on  
13 behalf of a governmental agency or pursuant to a governmental contract for  
14 scientific or meteorological purposes;
- 15 B) Hot Air Balloons that are recovered after launching;
- 16 C) Balloons released indoors.

17 SECTION 3. *Penalty*. – Any violation of section 1 of this Act shall be punishable by a  
18 civil penalty of One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) for each balloon released in excess of the  
19 limits set forth in such section, but not to exceed Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00).

1           SECTION 4. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts  
2 thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified  
3 accordingly.

4           SECTION 5. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any provision of this Act is  
5 declared to be unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof which are not  
6 affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

7           SECTION 6. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days  
8 following its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

9           Approved,