

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

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

10 JUL 19 P2:19

SENATE
S. No. **1543**

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

According to Article II, Section 16 of the 1987 Constitution:

“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. “

According to data released by the United States Environmental Protection Agency in 2001 on US plastic bag, sack, and wrap consumption, somewhere between 500 billion and a trillion plastic bags are consumed worldwide each year. Of those, millions end up in the litter stream outside of landfills.

Considering their somewhat placid appearance, the impact of plastic bags on the environment can be devastating. Plastic bags cause over 100,000 sea turtle and other marine animal deaths every year when animals mistakenly ingest them as food.

This bill aims to eliminate the use of plastic bags using a two-pronged approach: first, by gradually phasing out the use of plastic bags and, second, by introducing viable alternatives. *

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

* This bill was originally filed in the Fourteenth Congress, Second Regular Session

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SENATE
S. No. **1543**

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

AN ACT
REGULATING THE USE OF PLASTIC GROCERY BAGS

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

SECTION 1. *Definition.* As used in this act:

- A. "Carryout bag" means a bag provided by a store at the point of sale for customers to carry their goods out of the store.
- B. "Compostable plastic bag" means a plastic carryout bag that meets the current Department of trade and Industry's standard for compostable plastic, as that standard may be amended from time to time.
- C. "Department" means the Department of Environmental and Natural Resources.
- D. "Operator" means a person in control of, or having daily responsibility for, the daily operation of a store, which may include, but is not limited to, the owner of the store.
- E. "Plastic carryout bag" means a plastic carryout bag provided by a store to a customer at the point of sale.
- F. "Recyclable paper bag" means a paper bag that meets all the following requirements: (1) the bag contains no old growth fiber; (2) the bag is 100% recyclable overall and contains a minimum of 40% post-consumer recycled content; and (3) the bag displays the words "reusable" and "recyclable".
- G. "Reusable bag" means: (1) a bag made of cloth or other machine washable fabric that has handles; or (2) a durable plastic bag with handles that is at least 2.25 mm thick and is specifically designed and manufactured for multiple reuses.

1 H. "Store" means a drug store, supermarket or retail establishment that has over 1,000 square
2 feet of retail space and that provides plastic carryout bags to its customers as a result of the
3 sale of a product.

4 SECTION 2. *Gradual Reduction.* Upon effectivity of this Act, every operator of a store
5 shall restrict the use of non-compostable plastic bags by 50% of the current volume. Two years
6 after the effectivity of this Act, all non-compostable plastic bags shall be banned from use.

7 SECTION 3. *Report.* Every operator of a store shall submit a report documenting the
8 reduction in usage of non-compostable plastic bags to the Department upon effectivity of this
9 Act and every quarter of the year thereafter.

10 SECTION 4. *Alternative Bags.* . Upon effectivity of the total ban on non-compostable
11 plastic bags, every operator of a store shall provide as carryout bags to customers a recyclable
12 paper bag, a compostable bag, or a reusable bag.

13 SECTION 5. *Penalty.* The operator of any store which violates the provisions of this Act
14 shall be fined Twenty Five Thousand Pesos (P25,000) for the first offense, Fifty Thousand Pesos
15 (P50,000.00) for the second offense, and One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00) and
16 closure of the store for the third and final offense.

17 SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts
18 thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified
19 accordingly.

20 SECTION 7. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any provision of this Act is
21 declared to be unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof which are not
22 affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

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

25 Approved,