

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

15 JUL 20 AM '38

SENATE
S. No. 1667

RECEIVED BY: 

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.”

Indoor Air Quality (IAQ) deals with the content of interior air that could affect health and comfort of building occupants. The IAQ may be compromised by microbial contaminants (mold, bacteria), chemicals (such as carbon monoxide, radon), allergens, or any mass or energy stressor that can induce health effects. Indoor air pollutants are associated with many health risks including asthma.

Recent findings have demonstrated that indoor air is often more polluted than outdoor air (albeit with different pollutants). In fact, indoor air is often a greater health hazard than the corresponding outdoor setting. Using ventilation to dilute contaminants, filtration, and source control are the primary methods for improving indoor air quality in most buildings.

In accordance with the Constitutional provision above, the National Government must set policy directions with regard to indoor air quality. This bill addresses the issue head on. *


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
mer

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

19 JUL 20 AM 38

SENATE
S.No. 1667

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

1 AN ACT
2 TO PROTECT INDOOR AIR QUALITY

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

5 SECTION 1. *Definition.* As used in this article:

6 A. "Building" means an occupied structure of greater than twenty-five thousand square
7 feet of floor space, using mechanical ventilation providing outdoor air, re-circulated air, or a
8 mixture of outdoor and re-circulated air, excluding a residential structure containing six or fewer
9 dwelling units.

10 B. "Owner" means any individual, partnership, corporation, mortgagee, assignee of
11 rents, receiver, executor, trustee, lessee, or any other person, firm or corporation in control of a
12 building.

13 SECTION 2. *Responsibilities of the building owner.*

14 A. The owner of a building shall be responsible for developing and maintaining an
15 indoor air quality plan for the building; the plan shall contain the following components:

16 I. A detailed description of the building's heating, ventilation and air-conditioning
17 system, its operation, and procedures and schedules for necessary maintenance;

18 II. An inventory of toxic substances used in the building, including copies of applicable
19 material safety data sheet;

20 III. A plan detailing modifications and renovation on indoor air quality ventilation and
21 other factors relevant to air quality;

1 IV. Prior to commencing construction or renovation projects, a plan to minimize
2 exposure to contaminants and mitigate adverse effects on building occupants during and after
3 construction or renovation;

4 V. A procedure for maintaining and providing access (including inspection and
5 copying) to written records or logs pursuant to paragraph B of this section; and

6 VI. A system to respond to requests for information, investigate and respond to
7 complaints of indoor air quality problems and adverse health effects by occupants consistent
8 with paragraph D of this section.

9 B. The owner shall be responsible for developing and maintaining the following
10 records and logs as part of the indoor air quality plan:

11 I. A written record of maintenance performed on the building's heating, ventilation, and
12 air-conditioning system;

13 II. A log of pesticide use and application, including copies of applicable material safety
14 data sheets.

15 III. A written record of modifications and renovations to the building, including but not
16 limited to modification of the heating, ventilation and air-conditioning system, construction and
17 modifications of walls and interior space which could affect air flow to building occupants; and

18 IV. A log of complaints of indoor air quality problems and reports of adverse health
19 effects and actions and responses to complaints and reports.

20 C. The owner of a building shall designate a person or group of persons who shall be
21 responsible for coordinating the indoor air quality plan including:

22 I. Operating and maintaining the building's heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning
23 system;

24 II. Maintaining the indoor air quality plan pursuant to paragraph A of this section;
25 developing and maintaining the written records and logs pursuant to paragraph B of this
26 subdivision; and

27 III. Receiving and responding to complaints of indoor air quality problems and requests
28 for information pursuant to paragraph D of this section.

1 D. The owner of the building shall post in the lobby of the building, or conspicuously
2 where building occupants have access to it, a notice stating the procedures for making requests
3 and complaints under this paragraph and the name and telephone number of the person or
4 persons designated pursuant to paragraph C of this section.

5 E. A building owner may contract with a management company, lessee or other party
6 responsible for the building's operation and maintenance to carry out the responsibilities
7 enumerated in this section.

8 F. A building owner shall provide building occupants with reasonable access to the
9 indoor quality plan pursuant to paragraph A of this section; provided, however, that a building
10 owner may exclude from that access any information the disclosure of which would pose a
11 security risk.

12 G. Where the owner operates more than one similar building on a contiguous site, the
13 owner may prepare a plan which includes more than one building.

14 SECTION 3. *Indoor Air Quality Standards.* Within one year after this Act shall take
15 effect, the Department of Health, in consultation with the Department of Labor and Employment,
16 Department of Environment and Natural Resources and Department of Interior and Local
17 Government, shall adopt regulations establishing standards of ventilation for new and existing
18 buildings. The standards shall take into consideration building arrangement, structure, size, use,
19 age, and occupancy. The Department of Health may establish a procedure where any provision
20 or requirement of the indoor air quality regulations may be varied or modified in cases where
21 strict compliance would entail practical difficulties or unnecessary hardship or would otherwise
22 be unwarranted. Request for variance shall be resolved within sixty days of the date of
23 application unless a longer period is required for good cause shown.

24 SECTION 4. *Indoor Air Investigation.* Upon receipt of a complaint or complaints
25 excluding complaints in relation to temperature of indoor air quality relating to a building from
26 three or more occupants of the building or, from a tenant of all or part of the building, the
27 building owner shall initiate an investigation of the complaint or complaints. The building owner

1 shall respond in writing within thirty days indicating the results of the initial investigation and
2 any corrective actions taken or pending.

3 SECTION 5. *Training Course.* The Department of Health, in consultation with the
4 Department of Labor, and nationally recognized societies of industrial hygiene, fire prevention
5 and heating, refrigeration and air-conditioning, shall model courses in the operation and
6 maintenance of heating, ventilation and air-conditioning systems. The Secretary of Health shall
7 have authority to approve programs in heating, ventilation, and air-conditioning operation and
8 maintenance and shall maintain a list of approved programs, which shall be made available to
9 interested parties upon request.

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

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

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

18 Approved,