

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

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

10 JUL 21 P5 02

SENATE
S. No. **1806**

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 2, Section 16 states:

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.

Standard land development can drastically alter waterways. When development occurs, the alteration to the land can lead to dramatic changes to the hydrological properties of the area, or the way water is transported and stored. This disruption in the natural water cycle leads to increased frequency and severity of flooding, among others. Rivers, brooks, creeks and similar waterways act as natural canals so that excess water do not accumulate in a particular place; while marshes and swamps act like sponges, absorbing excess water from surrounding environs. These waterways should be protected so that flooding will be prevented.*

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

* This bill was originally filed in the third regular session of the 14th Congress.

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S.B. No. 1806

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1 AN ACT
2 PROHIBITING THE FILLING OF WATERWAYS IN THE CASE OF HOUSING PROJECTS

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

3 SECTION 1. *Prohibition.* No person or organization shall fill, cover, or block any part
4 of a river, creek, brook, spring, lake, lagoon, swamp, marsh, and similar waterways in order to
5 put up any housing project or any similar obstruction.

6 SECTION 2. *Penalty.* Any person or organization violating Section 1 of this Act shall
7 be penalized with a fine of 50 million pesos. The necessary permits for the housing project
8 concerned shall also be revoked.

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10 parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or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

12 SECTION 4. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days
13 following its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,