



LRS Reports

Legislative Research Service



SUMMARY OF SENATE BILL ON SECOND READING*

Second Regular Session, Eighteenth Congress

S. NO. 1789 AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY AND REGULATORY FRAMEWORK FOR FACILITIES UTILIZING WASTE-TO-ENERGY TECHNOLOGIES
(In substitution of Senate Bill Nos. 363 and 401)

Author: Senator Sherwin T. Gatchalian

Referred to: Committee on Energy

Key words: waste-to-energy, agricultural waste, biochemical waste or hazardous healthcare waste, chemical and industrial waste, solid waste, sanitary landfill, poisonous and toxic fumes, residue, resource recovery, segregation, waste generation

The bill seeks to establish a systematic and comprehensive ecological solid waste management program in order to ensure protection of the public's health and the environment, and strengthen the government's commitment to solid waste avoidance and volume reduction by supplementing waste-to-energy technology. It also seeks to encourage the development and utilization of environmentally sustainable new and alternative technologies in resource recovery, resource conservation, processing treatment, and disposal of solid waste.

Under the bill, waste-to-energy (WTE) refers to an energy system with a process of converting WTE feedstock with various technologies, usually the conversion of non-recyclable waste materials into useable heat, electricity or fuel through a variety of processes.

The segregation, collection, transfer, storage, and transport of solid waste as WTE feedstock for a WTE facility, and the waste treatment process of the WTE facility shall be governed by R.A. No. 9003 (Solid Waste Management Act) and R.A. No.

* LRS publishes summarized information of Senate bills under consideration for second reading in the First Regular Session, 18th Congress. The annual budget (General Appropriations Act); tax, banking and finance, and other bills which are predominantly fiscal in nature will not be included in the LRS reports.

8749 (Clean Air Act of 1999), while the energy production aspect of the WTE facility shall be governed by R.A. No. 9136 (Electric Power Industry Reform Act of 2001), R.A. No. 9367 (Biofuels Act of 2006), R.A. No. 9513 (Renewable Energy Act of 2008), and other relevant laws, rules, and regulations.

The Secretary of the Department of Energy shall serve in *ex-officio* capacity as member of the National Waste Management Commission (NSWMC) with fifteen (15) members from the government sector. NSWMC shall act as the lead agency in ensuring streamlined standards, criteria, and guidelines for WTE facilities. The Department of Energy (DOE), in addition to its powers and functions, shall issue permits to WTE based on the energy output, and determine the standards, criteria, and requirements applicable for each kind of WTE facility. Likewise, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) shall provide technical and other capacity building assistance and support to LGUs, and make available to the public, through the website, the emissions, effluents and other by-products of WTE facilities. The Department of Health (DOH) shall ensure that WTE facilities will undergo a health impact assessment, and regularly conduct an analysis of the effects of the WTE facilities and disposal sites on public health. The Local Government Units (LGUs) shall be responsible for the hauling of WTE feedstock to a WTE facility.

The Secretaries of the DOE, DENR, DOH, and NSWMC shall determine the organizational structure of the designated offices that they will establish, in consultation with the Department of Budget and Management, and in accordance with CSC rules and regulations.

The budgetary requirements amounting to P15,000,000.00 for DOE, P300,000,000.00 for DENR, P45,000,000.00 for DOH, and P27,000,000.00 for NSWMC shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the DOE, DENR, DOH, and NSWMC respectively. Thereafter, such amounts necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the Annual General Appropriations Act.

(Summary prepared by: Elizabeth A. Casao, 23 September 2020)

* LRS publishes summarized information of Senate bills under consideration for second reading in the First Regular Session, 18th Congress. The annual budget (General Appropriations Act); tax, banking and finance, and other bills which are predominantly fiscal in nature will not be included in the LRS reports.