
Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to conserve energy by banning the production of incandescent light bulbs and the promoting of the use of compact fluorescent light bulbs.

One of the most serious problems humankind is facing is global warming. Global warming results to increase in the earth's atmospheric temperature which causes climate change. Climate change brings about extreme weather conditions worldwide and causes strong typhoons, heavy rains and snowfalls, droughts, polar caps and glacier melts, rise in sea levels, flash floods, strong tornadoes, and other abnormal weather patterns.

Global warming is brought about by greenhouse gases trapped in the earth's atmosphere. Examples of greenhouse gases are carbon dioxide, methane, chlorofluorocarbons or CFCs, nitrogen, and sulphur. These greenhouse gases come from the burning of fossil fuels to feed our energy needs and run our industries and transportation, as well as from deforestation and decomposition of agricultural wastes and other organic matters.

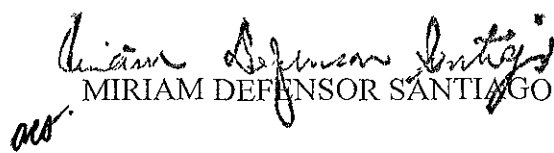
The Kyoto Protocol is an international agreement which calls for the reduction of carbon dioxide emissions. The Philippines, which is a signatory to the Kyoto Protocol, has responded to this international agreement by instituting measures that will reduce the country's dependence on fossil fuels in generating electricity. One of the ways that the ordinary Filipino can contribute to reduce our fossil fuels dependence and minimize our carbon dioxide emission is to utilize energy efficient electrical appliances, lightings, electronic gadgets and tools, and other electricity-powered household items.

Lighting is one of the areas where we can achieve significant energy savings. It has been established that incandescent light bulbs consume more electricity than fluorescent lamps or

compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs). Fluorescent light bulbs (including compact fluorescents) are more energy-efficient than regular bulbs because of the different method they use to produce light. Regular bulbs (also known as incandescent bulbs) create light by heating a filament inside the bulb; the heat makes the filament white-hot, producing the light that you see. A lot of the energy used to create the heat that lights an incandescent bulb is wasted. A fluorescent bulb, on the other hand, contains a gas that produces invisible ultraviolet light (UV) when the gas is excited by electricity. The UV light hits the white coating inside the fluorescent bulb and the coating changes it into light you can see. Because fluorescent bulbs don't use heat to create light, they are far more energy-efficient than regular incandescent bulbs.¹

A 15-watt CFL gives the same lumens as that of a 60-watt incandescent light bulb. CFLs use around 20% of the electricity used by incandescent bulbs to produce the same amount of light. The switch to CFLs will result in household lighting costs falling by as much as 80%, and the Philippines' annual greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions falling 2 million metric tons. This is an equivalent of taking 250,000 cars off the road or planting 2 million trees a year. Also, national electricity demand is expected to fall by 2,000 megawatts, or the equivalent of electricity generated by six power plants.

This bill aims to prohibit the manufacture, importation, sale, and use of incandescent light bulbs, and prescribe a phase-out period. It also establishes a Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS) for lighting products and encourages the use of CFLs and other energy efficient lightings for our requirements.²

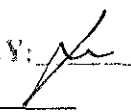

MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

¹ http://www.gelighting.com/na/business_lighting/faqs/cfl.htm#10

² This bill was previously filed in the Fourteenth Congress by Sen. Juan Miguel Zubiri.

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SENATE
S. No. 3062

RECEIVED BY: 

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1 AN ACT
2 PROHIBITING THE MANUFACTURE, IMPORTATION, SALE, AND USE OF
3 INCANDESCENT LIGHT BULBS, PRESCRIBING A PHASE-OUT PERIOD,
4 AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF

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

5 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Incandescent Light Bulb
6 Ban Act.”

7 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
8 protect the environment, promote environmental awareness, and conserve our natural resources
9 consistent with the country's sustainable development plans. Toward this end, the State shall
10 reduce the utilization of fossil fuels and other greenhouse gas-emitting substances. Further, the
11 State shall also promote the use of energy-efficient appliances, lightings, electronic gadgets,
12 household implements, and other similar electrical devices.

13 SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* - As used in this Act, the following terms shall be
14 taken to mean as follows:

15 (A) “Compact Fluorescent Lamp (CFL)” – refers to a type of light bulb which has
16 electrodes at both ends of the tube, a gas containing argon and mercury vapor wherein a stream
17 of electrons flows through the gas from one electrode to the other which gives off ultraviolet
18 photons that hit the phosphor coating inside the tube and creates visible light, and other similar
19 light bulb;

20 (B) “Incandescent light bulb” – refers to a light bulb which has an electricity resistant
21 filament inside that turns electrical energy into heat and makes the filament white hot, the
22 “white” being the light, and other similar light bulb;

1 (C) "BPS" – refers to the Bureau of Product Standard, which is a bureau under the
2 Department of Trade and Industry;

3 (D) "DOE" – refers to the Department of Energy;

4 (E) "DOST" – refers to the Department of Science and Technology;

5 (F) "DTI" – refers to the Department of Trade and Industry;

6 (G) "LATL" – refers to the Lighting and Appliance Testing Laboratory of the DOE;

7 (H) "Lumens" – refers to a measure of light output;

8 (I) "PCIERD" – refers to the Philippine Council for Industry and Energy, which is an
9 attached agency of the DOST;

10 (J) "TFL" – refers to Tubular Fluorescent Lamps, which uses the same research and
11 development technology as that of CFLs;

12 (K) "Watt" – refers to a measure of energy input.

13 SECTION 4. *Prohibited Acts Under the Ban.* – The manufacture, importation, sale, and
14 use of incandescent light bulbs and other similar lightings and fixtures which does not meet the
15 Minimum Energy Performance Standards shall be prohibited five (5) years from the passage of
16 this Act.

17 SECTION 5. *Minimum Energy Performance Standards (MEPS).* – A Minimum Energy
18 Performance Standards shall be formulated by the DOE-LATL and the BPS for lighting products
19 which shall not be less than 15 lumens per watt. The concerned government agencies mentioned
20 in this Section may adjust the MEPS every three (3) years in consultation with lighting
21 manufacturers, importers, consumers, and other stakeholders.

22 SECTION 6. *Exemption.* - Exempt from the prohibition as provided for in Section 4 of
23 this Act are those for use in scientific, research, medical, and technological purposes. Persons,
24 whether natural or juridical, who wish to avail of the exemption hereof shall secure a certificate
25 of exemption from PCIERD under the Department of Science and Technology.

26 SECTION 7. *Phasing-out Period.* - A phasing-out period of three (3) years upon the
27 effectivity of this Act shall be in place. During this period the DTI and DOE shall formulate
28 mechanisms for the gradual phase-out of incandescent light bulbs in the market. PCIERD shall
29 identify other alternative lightings or bulbs aside from the TFLs and CFLs.

1 SECTION 8. *Penalty Clause.* – At the onset of the ban, any person who violates this Act
2 or parts thereof shall be imposed a fine as follows:

3 (A) If the violator is a manufacturer or importer – A fine of not less than One Hundred
4 Thousand pesos (PhP100,000.) but not more than Five Hundred Thousand pesos (PhP500,000.),
5 or imprisonment of one (1) year to two (2) years or both, upon conviction by a competent court.

6 (B) If the violator is a seller – A fine of not less than Fifty Thousand pesos
7 (PhP50,000.) but not more than One Hundred Thousand pesos (PhP100,000.), or imprisonment
8 of six (6) months to one (1) year or both, upon conviction by a competent court.

9 (C) If the violator is a consumer or user of the product -- A fine of not less than Five
10 Thousand pesos (PhP5,000.) but not more than Ten Thousand pesos (PhP10,000.), or
11 imprisonment of one (1) month to six (6) months or both, upon conviction by a competent court.

12 If the violator is a juridical person, the president or chief executive officer of the entity
13 shall be held responsible for the violation.

14 SECTION 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The DTL, DOE, and DOST shall
15 promulgate the implementing rules and regulations within three (3) months from the effectivity
16 of this Act.

17 SECTION 10. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision, or part hereof, is held invalid or
18 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
19 valid and subsisting.

20 SECTION 11. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
21 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent
22 with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

23 SECTION 12. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
24 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

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