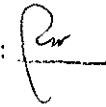


FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

12 MAR 19 P3:24

SENATE
S. No. 3159

BY: 

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Earth Hour is an annual worldwide activity that aims to stir awareness towards the need to take a stand on climate change by turning off non-essential lights for an hour, from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., every last Saturday of March. This event is a brainchild of World Wide Fund for Nature and The Sydney Morning Herald in 2007, where 2.2 million residents of Sydney participated. It has been adopted by several other cities around the world, including Manila, in 2008.

The first time the Philippines participated in said event, it registered a drop in power consumption by about 78.63 megawatts in Metro Manila and up to 102.2 megawatts in Luzon. In 2009, the country was able to save 611 MWh of electricity, the equivalent of shutting down a dozen coal-fired power plants for an hour. The following years has seen the active and invaluable participation of the country in the said event.

Section 16, Article II of the 1987 Constitution provides that "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" and as such the State shall encourage measures that will help resuscitate a failing environment by rousing the consciousness of its citizens on efforts of environmental conservation and protection.

This proposed measure seeks to raise awareness on climate change by requiring everyone to turn off their non-essential lights for one hour every last Saturday of the month from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., during which the demand for energy consumption shall be limited, therefore optimistically reducing the production of greenhouse gases

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly requested.


MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Senator 


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

Senate
Office of the Secretary

12 MAR 19 03:24

SENATE

S. No. 3159

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

**AN ACT
DECLARING THE LAST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH AS EARTH HOUR.**

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "Monthly Earth Hour Act of 2012."

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to reaffirm the fundamental right of every person to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.

SEC. 3. *Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Campaign.* – the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Department of Education (DepEd), the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Philippine Information Agency (PIA), in coordination with Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) shall conduct a nationwide information, education and communication (IEC) campaign in order to inform the general public on the need to conserve energy and to raise awareness towards the need to take action on climate change by asking them to turn off their non-essential lights for one hour every last Saturday of the month from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

SEC. 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).* - Within six (6) months from the date of effectivity of this Act, the DENR, in consultation with the DepEd and DILG shall promulgate necessary implementing rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 5. *Separability Clause.*- If any provision or part thereof of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC. 6. Repealing Clause.- All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 7. Effectivity Clause.- This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.