

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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

13 JUL -3 P12 :46

SENATE

S.B. No. **348**

RECEIVED BY: *Jua*

Introduced by Senator LOREN LEGARDA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Philippine urban areas are dotted with malls and supermarkets, grocery stores and other retail outlets. Purchases in these stores are concluded with customers walking out of the mall or store carrying several plastic bags. Some of these plastic bags are reused; others are easily dumped either properly or improperly. In all instances, plastic bags, because they are very light, are easily moved from place to place, clogging drainages in streets, polluting waterways and even endangering fish and ecosystems. In addition, the production of these bags requires considerable amounts of crude oil and natural gas.

The use of plastic bags must be reduced. This may be achieved by requiring retailers to establish a recycling mechanism for plastic bags and reuse recycled plastic bags in future purchases.


In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is being earnestly sought.


LOREN LEGARDA

Senator

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SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

S.B. No. 348

Introduced by Senator Loren Legarda

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR A PROACTIVE APPROACH IN RECYCLING USED PLASTIC
BAGS BY STORES AND OTHER RETAIL OUTLETS

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

1 *Section 1. Title.* This law shall be known as the "Stores Proactive in Plastic Bag
2 Recycling Act".

3
4 *Section 2. Definitions.* As used in this bill, the following terms shall have the
5 meanings indicated:

6
7 a. OPERATOR - A person which may include, but is not limited to, the owner of the
8 store, managing or responsible for the daily operation of a store.

9
10 b. STORE - A retail establishment that provides plastic reusable bags to its customers
11 as a result of the sale of a consumer good and belongs to a chain of five or more
12 retail establishments that are engaged in the same general field of business and are
13 under one common ownership or management or pursuant to a franchise
14 agreement with the same franchisor.

15
16 c. REUSABLE PLASTIC BAG - A plastic bag with handles specifically designed and
17 manufactured by a store as container for purchases in its store.

18
19 *Section 3. Store Recycling Program.* The operator of a store shall establish a
20 recycling program located at the store pursuant to the provisions of this bill. Such program
21 shall provide an opportunity for members of the public to return to the store clean plastic

1 bags from that originated from the store or from any store of a chain of five or more retail
2 establishments.

3
4 **Section 4. Program Requirements.** The recycling program provided by the operator
5 of a store shall require:

6
7 A. A plastic bag collection bin to be placed at or near the entrance to each store, and
8 such bin shall be highly visible and indicate that the bin is intended for the reusing
9 of plastic bags and not for the discarding of garbage. Such collection bin shall be
10 easily accessible to the customer; and such collection bin shall be clearly marked
11 that the collection bin is available for the purpose of collecting and recycling plastic
12 bags only.

13
14 B. That all plastic bags collected by the store are to be collected, handled and recycled
15 in a manner consistent with all applicable laws or any pertinent rule or regulation.

16
17 C. That the operator of the store shall direct store personnel to reuse plastic bags
18 collected through the program as container for purchases of customers instead of
19 using new plastic bags until the collected bags in a batch of collection were used.
20

21 **Section 5. Assistance for Stores.** Appropriate national and local government
22 agencies shall assist the stores to comply with the provisions of this Act.

23
24 **Section 6. Rules and Regulations.** The Department of Trade and Industry and the
25 Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall promulgate such rules and
26 regulations as they deem necessary for the implementation and enforcement of the
27 provisions of this Act.

28
29 **Section 7. Separability Clause.** If any part of this Act should hereafter be declared
30 unconstitutional or invalid, such other parts not affected thereby shall continue in full
31 force and effect.

32
33 **Section 8. Effectivity.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete
34 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

35 Approved,