

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



Senate  
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE  
S. No. 1343

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

Phosphorus, along with nitrogen, is an element that, when added to freshwater lakes or rivers, stimulate excessive growth of algae and vegetation. This process is called "eutrophication," which severely damages water quality and ruin aquatic ecosystems.

In most freshwater lakes and rivers, phosphorus is the "limiting nutrient." More phosphorus means more algae growth. Excess loading of phosphorus into streams, lakes, or rivers can cause drastic changes in water quality, including reduction in dissolved oxygen supplies, major changes in algae species and associated macro-invertebrate communities, algae blooms and associated foam and odors.

Phosphorus in dishwashing detergents is currently a significant source of water pollution. It fosters unhealthy growth of algae and can seriously reduce dissolved oxygen. Dissolved oxygen is an important component of most healthy aquatic ecosystems.

Eliminating phosphorous in dishwasher detergents is a step to preserve the natural ecosystems of our lakes and rivers. This bill regulates the sale and manufacture of cleaning agents that contain phosphorous as a measure to preserve the bionetwork of our rivers and lakes.\*

*arr.*  
*Miriam Defensor Santiago*  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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\* This bill was originally filed in the Fourteenth Congress, Second Regular Session.

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1 AN ACT  
2 REGULATING THE DISTRIBUTION FOR SALE OR USE OF CLEANING AGENTS  
3 WHICH CONTAIN PHOSPORUS

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

4 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act may be known as the “Envi–Protection Cleaning  
5 Agents Act”.

6 SECTION 2. *Definition.* – For the purposes of this Act, “cleaning agent” means a laundry  
7 detergent, dishwashing compound, household dishwashing detergent, household cleaner, metal  
8 cleaner, industrial cleaner, phosphate compound, or other substance that is intended to be used  
9 for cleaning purposes.

10 SECTION 3. *Prohibition.* – It shall be illegal to sell, offer for sale, distribute for sale, or  
11 use a cleaning agent that contains phosphorus in any form in excess of 8.7% by weight expressed  
12 as elemental phosphorus.

13 It shall also be illegal to sell, offer for sale, distribute for sale, or use either of the  
14 following cleaning agents if they contain phosphorus in any form in excess of 0.5% by weight  
15 expressed as elemental phosphorus:

16 (A) a cleaning agent intended for use in dishwashers;

17 (B) a cleaning agent that is intended for use with clothes detergents.

18 SECTION 4. *Penalties.* – (A) Any person who shall violate any of the provisions of  
19 Section 3 of this Act shall, upon conviction, be subject to a fine of not less than ten thousand

1 pesos (₱10,000.00) but not more than fifty thousand pesos (₱50,000.00) or imprisonment of not  
2 less than two (2) months but not more than one (1) year, or both, upon the discretion of the court.

3 (B) Any director, officer, or agent of a corporation, association, partnership, or any other  
4 entity who shall authorize, order, or perform any of the acts or practices constituting in whole or  
5 in part a violation of Section 3, shall be subject to the penalties to which that corporation may be  
6 subject.

7 SECTION 5. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part thereof is held invalid or  
8 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain  
9 valid and subsisting.

10 SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive  
11 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary to or inconsistent  
12 with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

13 SECTION 7. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
14 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,