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SENATE
S. No. **1923**

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 2, Section 16 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.

Recycling is a program which has become more and more indispensable to society as a possible solution to various environmental problems. The government itself should take the lead in recycling and other environmentally-sound practices as part of its commitment to a balanced and healthful ecology and achieving growth through sustainable development.

There are three main reasons why using recycled paper is necessary. First, producing recycled paper involves between 28 - 70% less energy consumption than virgin paper and uses less water. Second, recycled paper produces fewer polluting emissions to air and water. Recycled paper is not usually re-bleached and where it is, oxygen rather than chlorine is usually used. This reduces the amount of dioxins which are released into the environment as a by-product of the chlorine bleaching processes. Third, paper is a biodegradable material. This means that when it goes to landfill, as it rots, it produces methane, which is a potent greenhouse gas. It is becoming increasingly accepted that global warming is a reality, and that methane and carbon dioxide emissions have to be reduced to lessen its effects.

This bill makes it mandatory for all government offices to use recycled paper and paper products to the greatest extent practicable.*

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

* This bill was originally filed during the 13th Congress.

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SENATE
S. No. 1923

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

1 AN ACT
2 REQUIRING ALL GOVERNMENT OFFICES TO USE RECYCLED PAPER AND PAPER
3 PRODUCTS TO THE GREATEST EXTENT PRACTICABLE

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

4 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known and cited as the "Government
5 Recycling Act".

6 SECTION 2. *Requirement for Government Offices to Use Recycled Paper and Paper*
7 *Products.* -

8 (A) All government offices, agencies, subsidiaries, instrumentalities, and government-
9 owned and controlled corporations shall take such action as may be necessary to assure that
10 recycled paper and paper products are used to the greatest extent practicable in their operations.
11 Any decision not to use recycled paper or paper products shall be based on a determination that
12 such items are: (i) not available; or (ii) available only at an unreasonable price.

13 (B) In carrying out the requirement of paragraph (A), the department or division of
14 government offices, agencies, subsidiaries, instrumentalities, and government-owned and
15 controlled corporations responsible for the procurement of paper and other paper products shall,
16 at a minimum, take such action as may be necessary to assure that recycled paper or paper
17 products are purchased under each contract, or subcontract under a contract, for the procurement
18 of 10,000 pounds or more of paper or paper products.

19 (C) For purposes of this Act, an unreasonable price is one which exceeds by more
20 than ten percent (10%) the price of non-recycled paper or paper products.

1 SECTION 3. *Annual Reports.* - Each government office, agency, subsidiary,
2 instrumentality, and government-owned and controlled corporation shall publish a report on the
3 implementation of this Act. Each report shall include information on the progress and problems
4 associated with such implementation, and findings and recommendations with respect to such
5 implementation.

6 SECTION 4. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part thereof is held invalid or
7 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
8 valid and subsisting.

9 SECTION 5. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, presidential decrees or issuances, executive
10 orders, letter of instruction, administrative orders, rules, and regulations contrary to or
11 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or amended
12 accordingly.

13 SECTION 6. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its
14 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,