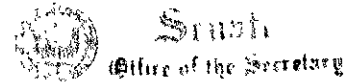


SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
Third Regular Session )



'15 SEP 14 P1:11

SENATE

Senate Bill No. 2949

RECEIVED BY: JS

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INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

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AN ACT  
TO BAN THE CONSTRUCTION OF HOUSES ALONG RIVER BANKS,  
WATERWAYS AND BANKS OF INLAND WATERS AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Year in and year out, the Philippines is hit by strong typhoons which most often result to heavy floods. Thousands of families are affected and millions of pesos are lost due to damage in public and private properties. Thousands of deaths of those who were drowned and swept away by the flooding were also recorded. One major contributor to this are the constricted pathways of water, which is brought about by, among others, illegal housing resettlements of families along the riverbanks, waterways and banks of inland waters.

To prevent loss of lives and damage to properties, this measure seeks to ban the construction of houses along said bodies of water. It prohibits the construction of houses within ten (10) meters from the edge of the rivers and bodies of inland waters.

The "*Housing Ban Along Riverbanks Act of 2015*" shall be implemented by local government units. The measure was originally filed by Sen. Manny Villar in the 15<sup>th</sup> Congress and it mandated the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) to craft the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of the law. This representation, however, made an amendment to the original bill by including the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) and the various leagues and organizations of local government units such as League of Provinces, League of Cities, and League of Municipalities, among others, to be consulted in crafting the IRR.

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

  
JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA  
Senator

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PURPOSES

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “**Housing Ban Along**  
2 **Riverbanks Act of 2015**”.

3  
4  
5 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is the policy of the State to protect the people  
6 from natural and man-made disasters and to implement laws to achieve such  
7 purpose. One way to do this is to take the potential victims from harms way by  
8 preventing them from subjecting themselves to probable risks such as building  
9 their houses along the path of floodwaters.

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11  
12 **SEC. 3. Ban on the Construction of Houses along Riverbanks, Waterways and**  
13 **Bodies of Inland Waters.** – The construction of houses within ten (10) meters  
14 from the edge of rivers and bodies of inland waters is hereby prohibited.

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16  
17 **SEC. 4. Penalties.** – Barangay Chairmen, Municipal Mayors and Provincial  
18 Governors shall be jointly liable to penalties if in their jurisdictions there are  
19 houses that are built within ten (10) meters along riverbanks, banks of waterways  
20 and banks of inland waters whether or not they issued construction permits or  
21 not. They shall be jointly liable to a fine of Fifty Thousand Pesos (Php 50,000)  
22 each or an imprisonment of six (6) months of both. Repeated violation of this Act  
23 shall be ground for their removal from office.

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26 **SEC. 5. Operation of this Act.** – This Act shall cover only constructions that are  
27 made after the approval of this Act.

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29  
30 **SEC. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – The Department of Interior and  
31 Local Government (DILG), in consultation with the Metro Manila Development  
32 Authority (MMDA) and the various leagues and organizations of local

1 government units, shall issue within one hundred eighty (180) days from the date  
2 of the approval of this Act, the implementing rules and regulations for this Act.  
3  
4

5 **SEC. 7. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision of this Act shall at any time be  
6 found to be unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder thereof not affected by such  
7 declaration shall remain in full force and effect.  
8  
9

10 **SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, rules or regulations inconsistent  
11 with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.  
12  
13

14 **SEC. 9. *Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days  
15 following its complete publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.  
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20

21 *Approved,*