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SENATE

S. No. 498

Introduced by Senator Antonio "Sonny" F. Trillanes IV

AN ACT
PROHIBITING THE DEVELOPMENT, PRODUCTION, STOCKPILING, USE OF
CHEMICAL WEAPONS AND PROVIDING FOR THEIR DESTRUCTION AND
PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Chemical weapons are lethal misapplications of scientific endeavour and scarce resources, and the use thereof constitutes a crime against humanity. In the past, these instruments of nations' arsenals have produced devastating and indiscriminate casualties among warring states. In the modern society, their use, especially by non-state actors such as terrorists, is of deepening concern among political leaders. This time, terrorists, not rogue nations, pose as a greater chemical weapon threat. The accessibility, proven attack method, and the added value of the psychological impact of chemical weapons on societies and governments make their use desirable in the eyes of terrorists. This is true among extremists motivated by ideology and groups who simply intend to sow fear for the purpose of causing significant social and economic disruption.

Hence, the adoption of a Chemical Weapons Convention to provide the legal framework for defending society against chemical terrorism, for maintaining the peaceful and meaningful utilization of chemistry, and for creating a treaty regime ensuring that governments from different states fulfil the national obligation of implementing chemical disarmament and non-proliferation.

After 12 years of negotiations, the Chemical Weapons Convention was adopted by the Conference on Disarmament in Geneva on 3 September 1992, opened for signature in Paris on 13 January 1993, and entered into force on 29 April 1997 to outlaw the production, stockpiling, and use of chemical weapons. The Convention is the first disarmament agreement negotiated within a multilateral framework that provides for the elimination of an entire category of weapons of mass destruction under universally applied international control.¹ The Convention establishes an international norm against the development of chemical weapons for all time, and provides the legal and political basis for firm action against those who violate its rules.²

¹ Information retrieved from <http://www.un.org/disarmament/WMD/Chemical/> on 8/16/2013.

² Secretary General Kofi Annan's Opening Remarks to Conference of Parties to Convention at The Hague. Information retrieved from <http://www.un.org/disarmament/WMD/Chemical/pdf/SGSM6232.pdf> on 8/16/2013.

This measure is being put forward with the end in view of providing the Philippine Government with an enabling legislative framework required to fulfil its obligations under the Convention where the country is a signatory. The country signed the Convention on 13 January 1993, ratified the same on 21 February 1995 with the Philippine Senate thereafter adopting a resolution to signify its concurrence on 19 August 1996. Under this measure, a Philippine National Authority for the Chemical Weapons Convention is established to serve as the national coordinating body for effective liaison with the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW) and other State Parties to the Convention, and shall be the lead agency in the implementation of the provisions of the Convention.

In view of the foregoing, immediate enactment of this measure is earnestly sought.


ANTONIO "SONNY" F. TRILLANES IV
Senator

1 in any other activities prohibited under the Convention, and shall prohibit all persons from
2 developing, producing, manufacturing, acquiring, possessing, stockpiling, retaining,
3 transferring, or using chemical weapons or engaging in any other activities prohibited under
4 the Convention.

5

6 **SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.*** – For the purpose of this Act, the following terms are
7 hereby defined.

8 a) *Chemical Weapon* means the following, together or separately:

9 (i) Toxic chemicals and their precursors, except where intended for purposes not
10 prohibited under the Convention, as long as the types and quantities are
11 consistent with such purposes;

12 (ii) Munitions and devices, specifically designed to cause death or other harm
13 through the toxic properties of those toxic chemicals specified in subparagraph
14 (i), which would be released as a result of the employment of such munitions
15 and devices; and

16 (iii) Any equipment specifically designed for use directly in connection with the
17 employment of munitions and devices specified in subparagraph (ii).

18

19 b) *Discrete Organic Chemicals* means any chemical belonging to the class of chemical
20 compounds consisting of all compounds of carbon except for its oxides, sulphides and
21 metal carbonates.

22

23 c) *Key component of Binary or Multi-component Chemical Systems* means the precursor
24 which plays the most important role in determining the toxic properties of the final

1 product and reacts rapidly with other chemicals in the binary or multi-component
2 system.

3
4 *d) Facility* means any industrial site of any production unit or process unit (“unit”)
5 which is the combination of items of equipment, including vessels and vessel set up,
6 necessary for the production, processing or consumption of a chemical.

7
8 *e) OPCW* refers to Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons.

9
10 *f) Person* means, except as otherwise provided, any individual, corporation, partnership,
11 firm, association, trust, estate, public or private institution, or any political entity, any
12 foreign government or nation or any agency, instrumentality or political subdivision
13 of any such government or nation, or other entity located in the Philippines.

14
15 *g) Precursors* mean any chemical reactant which takes part at any stage in the
16 production by whatever method of a toxic chemical. These include any key
17 component of a binary or multi-component chemical system. Precursors which have
18 been identified for the application of verification measures by the OPCW are listed in
19 the Schedules contained in the Annex on Chemicals to the Convention.

20
21 *h) Purposes not prohibited* means:

22 (i) Industrial, agricultural, research, medical, pharmaceutical, or other peaceful
23 purposes;

24 (ii) Protective purposes, namely those purposes directly related to protection
25 against toxic chemicals and to protection against chemical weapons;

1 (iii) Military purposes not connected with the use of chemical weapons and not
2 dependent on the use of the toxic properties of chemicals as a method of
3 warfare;

4 (iv) The use of non-lethal weapons, other than those prohibited under this Act and
5 the Convention, for the maintenance of public security and order:

6 (a) By the law enforcement authorities;

7 (b) By the Armed Forces of the Philippines when taking measures to
8 suppress insurgency and other serious threats to national security, and
9 where the use thereof is most appropriate than the use of deadly force;
10 and

11 (c) By the Armed Forces of the Philippines within the framework of a
12 system of mutual collective security, and training for its use.

13
14 *i) Riot control agents* means any chemical not listed in Schedule 1, Schedule 2 or
15 Schedule 3 of the Annex on Chemicals to the Convention which can produce rapidly
16 in humans, sensory irritation or disabling physical effects which disappear within a
17 short time following termination of exposure.

18
19 *j) Scheduled chemicals* means those chemicals listed in Schedule 1, Schedule 2 and
20 Schedule 3, respectively, of the Annex on Chemicals to the Convention.

21
22 *k) Toxic chemical* means any chemical which through its chemical action on life
23 processes can cause death, temporary incapacitation or permanent harm to humans or
24 animals. This definition includes all such chemicals therein, regardless of their origin

1 or of their method of production, and regardless of whether they are produced in
2 facilities, in munitions or elsewhere.

3
4 Toxic chemicals which have been identified for the application of verification
5 measures by the OPCW are listed in Schedules contained in the Annex on Chemicals
6 to the Convention. Unless the contrary intention appears, an expression or term that is
7 used both in this Act and in the Convention but is not defined in this Chapter shall
8 have, in this Act, the same meaning provided in the Convention.

9
10 l) *Verification Annex* means the Annex on Implementation and Verification to the
11 Convention.

12
13 **SEC. 4. *Establishment of a Philippine National Authority for the Chemical***
14 ***Weapons Convention.*** – A Philippine National Authority for the Chemical Weapons
15 Convention hereinafter referred to, for brevity, as the “PNA-CWC”, is hereby created. The
16 members of the PNA-CWC are: (1) the Executive Secretary, who shall be its Chairperson; (2)
17 the Secretary of National Defense, who shall be its Vice Chairperson; and (3) the Secretary of
18 Foreign Affairs; (4) the Secretary of Justice; (5) the Secretary of the Interior and Local
19 Government; (6) the Secretary of Finance; (7) the National Security Advisor; (8) the
20 Secretary of Health; (9) the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources; (10) the
21 Secretary of Agriculture; (11) the Secretary of Transportation and Communications; (12) the
22 Secretary of Trade and Industry; and (13) the Secretary of Energy, as its other members. The
23 PNA-CWC shall determine its organizational structure accordingly.

1 The National Bureau of Investigation, the Office of Civil Defense, the Intelligence
2 Service of the Armed Forces of the Philippines, the Philippine Center on Transnational
3 Crime, Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency, the Dangerous Drugs Board, the Food and
4 Drug Administration, the Philippine National Police intelligence and investigative elements
5 and heads of agencies considered necessary or advisable by the PNA-CWC shall serve as
6 support agencies. The PNA-CWC shall determine its organizational structure accordingly.

7
8 A Secretary or Head of Agency who is a member of the PNA-CWC may designate an
9 alternate member coming from his office or agency to attend meetings of the PNA-CWC if
10 and when, for any reason, he is unable to attend said meetings.

11
12 The PNA-CWC shall have the following duties and functions:

- 13 a) Liaise with the OPCW and other State Parties on matters relating to the
14 Convention;
- 15 b) Prepare and submit annual declarations to the OPCW on scheduled chemicals and
16 facilities and impose regulatory and monitoring fees for scheduled chemicals;
- 17 c) Develop rules and regulations and formulate policies concerning the production,
18 processing, consumption, importation, exportation use and proper disposition of
19 scheduled chemicals and facilities, and other chemical production facilities;
- 20 d) Designate and specify the required training and the functions of national
21 inspectors, who shall report to the PNA-CWC;
- 22 e) Conduct and facilitate national inspections, as well as international inspections by
23 the OPCW inspectors, of sites involving scheduled chemicals or other chemical
24 production facilities;

- 1 f) Cause or direct the investigation and prosecution of violators of laws concerning
2 chemical weapons, or the handling of toxic chemicals in violation of this Act; and
3 g) Perform such other functions to effectively implement the provisions of the
4 Convention.

5
6 The PNA-CWC is hereby empowered to compel, as may be necessary, assistance and
7 support from all departments, bureaus, offices, agencies, or instrumentalities, of the
8 government, including government owned and/or controlled corporations and other
9 government institutions to effectively perform its duties and functions under this Act.

10
11 The PNA-CWC shall also have the power to periodically update the scheduled
12 chemicals listed in Schedule 1, Schedule 2 and Schedule 3, respectively, of the Annex on
13 Chemicals to the CWC upon the request or advise of the OPCW, such updates shall be in the
14 form of formal resolutions of the PNA-CWC to be published in the *Official Gazette* or two
15 (2) newspaper of general circulation in the country before taking effect.

16
17 **CHAPTER II**

18 **PROHIBITIONS**

19 **SEC. 5. Prohibitions.**

20 The following acts are prohibited under this Act:

- 21 a) Develop, produce, acquire, stockpile, use, transport or retain any chemical
22 weapon;
23 b) Assist and encourage or induce in any way, a person, to engage in activities
24 prohibited under the Convention;
25 c) Engage in military preparations to use a chemical weapon;

- 1 d) Transfer, directly or indirectly, a chemical weapon to any other natural and/or
2 juridical person;
- 3 e) Use a riot control agent as a method of warfare;
- 4 f) Produce, acquire, retain, or use Schedule 1 chemicals in a state not party to the
5 convention;
- 6 g) Retransfer to a third State, the Schedule 1 chemicals transferred to the Philippines;
- 7 h) Transfer Schedule 1 chemicals to another state party without notifying the PNA-
8 CWC at least sixty (60) days before the transfer, except for the transfer of
9 saxitoxin, which notification shall be allowed not less than twenty four (24) hours
10 before the time of transfer, if the transfer is for medical/diagnostic purposes and
11 the quantity is five milligrams (5 mg) or less (par 5, Part IV Schedule 1 Regime);
- 12 i) Transfer to or receive from a state not party to the Convention Schedule 2
13 chemicals or products containing such chemicals. This prohibition shall not apply
14 to those products containing Schedule 2 chemicals in which:
- 15 (i) The product contains one percent or less of a Schedule 2A or 2A*
16 chemical;
- 17 (ii) The product contains 10 percent or less of a Schedule 2B chemical; or
- 18 (iii) The product is identified as a consumer good packaged for retail sale
19 for personal use or packaged for individual use.
- 20 j) Transfer to a state not party to the Convention Schedule 3 chemicals without
21 receiving, prior to the transfer an end-user certificate from the competent
22 government, authority of such State pursuant to paragraph 26 of Part VIII of the
23 Verification Annex to the Convention. This shall not apply to those products
24 containing Schedule 3 chemicals in which:
- 25 i) The product contains 30 percent or less of a Schedule 3 chemical; or

1 CWC has delegate the function, shall suffer the penalty of imprisonment of four years and
2 one day to six (6) years and/or a fine of Five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00) to One
3 million pesos (P1,000,000.00).

4 (e) Any person who imports or exports Schedule 2 chemicals or Schedule 3
5 chemicals, without registration with the PNA-CWC or the agency/ies to which the PNA-
6 CWC has delegate the function, shall suffer the penalty of imprisonment of four (4) years and
7 one day to six (6) years and/or a fine of Five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00) to One
8 million pesos (P1,000,000.00).

9 (f) Notwithstanding subsections (1) and (2) of Section 11, any person who obstructs,
10 hinders, resists, or deceives any national inspector or international inspector who is exercising
11 any function contemplated, or any power provided for, in the regulations issued further to
12 Section 11, in the Convention or any applicable facility agreement, shall be punished by
13 imprisonment for a period of four (4) years and one day to six (6) years, and/or a fine of Five
14 hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00) to One million pesos (P1,000,000.00). In addition, the
15 facility in question shall be subject to closure.

16 (g) Any person who violates Section 12 shall suffer the penalty of imprisonment for
17 four (4) years and one day to six (6) years, and/or a fine of Five hundred thousand pesos
18 (P500,000.00) to One million pesos (P1,000,000.00).

19 (h) Any person who as the case may be, produces, processes or consumes Schedule 2
20 or 3 chemicals or unscheduled discrete organic chemicals for a purpose other than purposes
21 not prohibited under the Chemical Weapons Convention, or contravenes paragraphs (2) or (3)
22 shall suffer the penalty of imprisonment of not less than two (2) years to twenty (20) years
23 and/or a fine of Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) to Five million pesos (P5,000,000.00).

1 (i) Any person who refuses or fails to notify the PNA-CWC pursuant to the
2 provisions of Section 10 shall suffer the penalty of imprisonment of one (1) year and one day
3 to two (2) years and/or a fine of Five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00)

4 (j) Any person who fails to give the required additional information or keep records
5 pursuant to Section 10 shall suffer the penalty of imprisonment of six (6) months and one day
6 to one (1) year and/or a fine of One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00).

7 (k) Any person who, in any document prepared pursuant to Section 10 of this Act,
8 makes a statement or omits any matter knowing that the statement or omission makes the
9 document false and misleading in a material particular shall, after hearing and due
10 proceedings, suffer the penalty of six (6) months and one day to one (1) year and/or a fine of
11 One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00).

12 In case any of the violation of this Act is committed by a partnership, corporation,
13 association, or any other juridical entity, the partner, president, director, manager, trustee,
14 administrator, or officer who consents to, or knowingly tolerates such violation shall be held
15 criminally liable.

16 The registration with the SEC or DTI, as the case may be, and license to operate of
17 the partnership, corporation, association or any other juridical entity, shall be cancelled and
18 revoked permanently.

19 In addition to the penalties prescribed in this Act, any alien who violates such
20 provision shall, after service of sentence, be deported immediately without further
21 proceedings, and be barred permanently from entering the country.

22 The maximum penalty provided in this Act shall be imposed in addition to absolute
23 perpetual disqualification from any public office, to any government official or employee
24 found guilty for the commission of any of the offenses under this Act.

1 The PNA-CWC is empowered to issue regulations to prescribe, among others, the
2 manner of applying for registration, the requirements for registration, and the schedule for
3 registration. For registration purposes, a record of the specific chemicals under schedules 1, 2
4 and 3 of this Act, and other chemicals that are regulated under the Convention, which the
5 registrant shall use, shall be required.

6
7 (a) *Schedule 1.* – Subject to the provisions of this Chapter, no person shall produce,
8 acquire, retain, transfer or use toxic chemicals listed under Schedule 1 unless—

9 (1) such production, acquisition, retention, transfer or use is for research,
10 medical, pharmaceutical or protective purposes;

11 (2) the types and quantities of the toxic chemicals are strictly limited to those
12 which can be justified for such purposes;

13 (3) the aggregate amount of such chemicals at any given time for such
14 purposes is equal to or less than ten kilograms for each facility in a calendar
15 year; and

16 (4) such production, acquisition, retention, transfer or use is authorized by the
17 PNA-CWC.

18
19 (b) *Schedule 2 and 3 chemicals and unscheduled discrete organic chemicals.* –

20 (1) Unless registered with the PNA-CWC or the agency/ies to which the PNA-
21 CWC has delegated the function, no person shall:

- 22 i. produce, process or consume more than 1 kilogram of a Schedule
23 2, part A* chemical per year for a purpose not prohibited under the
24 Chemical Weapons Convention; or

- 1 ii. produce, process or consume more than 100 kilograms of any other
2 Schedule 2, part A chemical per year for a purpose not prohibited
3 under the Chemical Weapons Convention; or
4 iii. subject to paragraph (2)(c), produce, process or consume more than
5 1 tonne of a Schedule 2, part B chemical per year for purposes not
6 prohibited under the Chemical Weapons Convention; or
7 iv. subject to subparagraph (2)(c), produce more than 30 tonnes of a
8 Schedule 3 chemical per year for purposes not prohibited under the
9 Chemical Weapons Convention; or
10 v. subject to subparagraph (2)(c), produce by synthesis more than 200
11 tonnes of unscheduled discrete organic chemicals or more than 30
12 tonnes of an unscheduled discrete organic chemical containing the
13 elements phosphorous, sulphur or fluorine;

14 (2) Registration with the PNA-CWC or the agency/ies to which the PNA-
15 CWC has delegated the function, is required for any person that produced,
16 processed, or consumed a Schedule 2 chemical for purposes not prohibited
17 under the Chemical Weapons Convention during any of the three calendar
18 years previous to the current year, above the following thresholds per year-

- 19 (i) 1 kilogram of a Schedule 2, part A* chemical
20 (ii) 100 kilograms of any other Schedule 2, part A chemical
21 (iii) 1 tonne of a Schedule 2, part B chemical.

22 (3) Registration is not required for, as the case maybe, the production,
23 processing, or consumption of mixtures of chemicals containing 30 percent or
24 less a Schedule 2, part B chemical or a Schedule 3 chemical.

1 (c) *Imports and exports of Schedule 2 and 3 chemicals.* – No person shall import or
2 export Schedule 2 chemicals or Schedule 3 chemicals except upon registration with the PNA-
3 CWC or by the agency/ies to which the PNA-CWC has delegated such function pursuant to
4 the last paragraph of this Section.

5
6 (d) *Activities for purposes not prohibited under the Convention.* – Any person may,
7 subject to the provisions of this Act, develop, produce, acquire, retain, transfer, possess or use
8 toxic chemicals as listed in Schedules 1, 2 and 3 for purposes not prohibited under the
9 Convention.

10
11 The PNA-CWC may, in its sound discretion, delegate its power to require registration
12 under this Section to relevant and competent national government agencies.

13
14 **SEC. 10. *Declarations.*** –

15 (1) *Purpose of this section.* –

16 (a) The purpose of this section of this Act is to ensure that:

- 17 (i) Toxic chemicals and their precursors are only developed, produced,
18 otherwise acquired, retained, transferred, or used for purposes not
19 prohibited under the Convention, and
20 (ii) The PNA-CWC has knowledge of dealing with chemicals that
21 facilitated the making of the Philippines annual declaration under the
22 Convention to the OPCW, and
23 (iii) The Philippines is otherwise able to fulfil its obligation under the
24 Convention.

1 (b) Any power under this section of this Act may be exercised only for the purpose
2 specified in subparagraph (1) (a).

3 (2) *Supply of Information.* –

4 (a) Any person who, as the case may be, developed, produced, or otherwise acquired,
5 processed, consumed, retained, transferred or used toxic chemicals, or their
6 precursors, to which any provision in Parts VI through IX of the Verification
7 Annex of the Convention applies, or who intends to carry out such activities,
8 must-

9 (i) Notify the chemicals and, as the case may be, the facility or plant site
10 to the PNA-CWC, within such period as prescribed by the PNA-CWC,
11 by giving written notice in a form approved by the PNA-CWC and
12 issued under the regulations further to this Act, containing such
13 information as is required by the form; and

14 (ii) Keep records in relation to the chemicals and facility or plant site, and
15 the purpose to which the chemicals are put; and

16 (iii) Prepare, from these records, annual reports relating to the chemicals
17 and the facility or plant site in a form approved by the PNA-CWC and
18 issued under the regulations issued further this Act; and

19 (iv) Send annual reports to the PNA-CWC at intervals specified in the
20 regulations issued further to this Act.

21 (b) The records and reports under subparagraph 2(a) (i)-(iv) must be sufficient to
22 satisfy the PNA-CWC that the convention and the provisions of this Act and any
23 regulations made under this Act are being complied with.

1 implementation of this Act or of the equivalent statute(s), subject to other State
2 authorities or international organizations or entities being bound to official secrecy.

3 (2) The PNA-CWC may request other State authorities and international organizations or
4 entities, under paragraph (1) to provide relevant data or information. The PNA-CWC
5 is authorized to receive data or information concerning:

6 (a) The nature, quantity, and utilization of scheduled chemicals or their precursors
7 and related technologies, and the places of consignment and consignees for
8 such scheduled chemicals, precursors, or related technologies; or

9 (b) Persons taking part in the production, delivery, or brokerage of the scheduled
10 chemicals, precursors, technologies in subparagraph (a).

11 (3) If a State has entered into the appropriate reciprocity agreement with the Philippines,
12 the PNA-CWC may provide, on their own initiative or on request, the data or
13 information described in paragraph (2) to that State so long as the other competent
14 State authority provides assurances that such data or information shall:

15 (a) Only be utilized for purposes consistent with this Act; and

16 (b) Only be used in criminal proceedings on the condition that they are obtained
17 in accordance with those provisions governing international juridical
18 cooperation.

19 (4) The PNA-CWC may provide data or information described in paragraph (2) to
20 international organizations or entities if the conditions set forth in paragraph (3) are
21 fulfilled, in which case the requirement for reciprocity agreement is waived.

22
23 **SEC. 15. *Supplemental Application of the Revised Penal Code and Other Laws.* –**

24 The provisions of the Revised Penal Code, Human Security Act, and other laws shall have
25 supplemental application to the provisions of this Act.

1 **SEC. 16. *Jurisdiction.*** – Any of the Regional Trial Courts where any of the elements
2 of the offense has been committed have jurisdiction over all cases of violations of this Act
3 and application for ancillary writs and processes of search warrant, seizure and forfeiture:
4 *Provided,* That the first court that acquires jurisdiction shall exercise the same to the
5 exclusion of all other courts unless the Supreme Court authorizes the transfer of venue to
6 prevent injustice.

7
8 **SEC. 17. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty (60) days from the
9 establishment of the PNA-CWC as provided in Section 4 herein, the PNA-CWC, in close
10 coordination with the chemical industry, the Department of Science and Technology (DOST),
11 Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Philippine National Police
12 (PNP), Philippine drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), Food and Drug Administration-
13 Department of Health (FDA-DOH), and the Fertilizer and Pesticides Authority (FPA) shall
14 issue the specific rules and regulations as may be necessary to ensure the efficient and
15 effective implementation of the provisions of this Act.

16
17 **SEC. 18. *Transitory Clause.*** – All powers, functions and all pending work contracts
18 and/or obligations relating to the CWC of the Anti-Terrorism Council (ATC), acting as the
19 interim PNA-CWC pursuant to Executive Order No. 39, Series of 2011, shall be assumed and
20 turned over to the PNA-CWC upon establishment thereof, as provided in Section 4 hereof.

21
22 **SEC. 19. *Appropriations.*** – Such amount necessary for the implementation of the
23 provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

1 **SEC. 20. Separability Clause.** – If any provision or portion of this Act or the
2 application thereof to any person or circumstance is declared to be unconstitutional or invalid,
3 the other provisions or portions of this Act, and the application of such provision or portion,
4 to other persons or circumstances, shall not be affected thereby.

5
6 **SEC. 21. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules or regulations
7 or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended or
8 modified accordingly.

9
10 **SEC. 22. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
11 in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,