

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES**

Third Regular Session



'18 OCT 24 P2:06

**SENATE
S.B. NO. 2083**

REF.

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay


**AN ACT
SEEKING TO PROTECT THE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF INDIVIDUALS
INVOLVED IN GARBAGE COLLECTION, WORKING IN DUMPSITES OR
ASSIGNED IN DISASTER AREAS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The hazardous working environment faced every single day by garbage collectors, individuals assigned in disaster areas, and those who worked in dumpsites, exposes them to various health and safety risks. At present, there are no guidelines and programs addressing the plight of these individuals.

This Bill seeks to protect the health and safety of individuals working in dumpsites or assigned in disaster areas by providing concrete guidelines that shall be observed and implemented in disaster area operations and dumpsite activities.

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


MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY
Senator



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ASSIGNED IN DISASTER AREAS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

- 1 Section 1. Short title. - This Act shall also be known as "Individuals' Health
2 and Safety Act"
3
- 4 Sec. 2. Provision of gloves, masks, and other proper protective equipment. -
5 No individuals involved in garbage collection, working in dumpsites or
6 assigned in disaster areas may be allowed to continue with any of their
7 respective activities, unless they are properly equipped with protective gloves
8 and masks and other health and safety gears and proper protective
9 equipment, such as but not limited to respirators to protect against airborne
10 toxins, which may be required depending on the nature and extent of risks
11 involved in clean-up operations, where hazardous and infectious chemicals
12 are present.
13
- 14 For purposes of this Act, the term "hazardous material" includes –
15 (a) petroleum-based product;
16 (b) a metal;
17 (c) a volatile or semi-volatile organic compound;
18
19

- 1 (d) a pesticide;
2 (e) an herbicide;
3 (f) a polychlorinated biphenyl; and
4 (g) any biological material in floodwater, surface water, sediment, or
5 soil that may threaten human health or the environment.

6
7 The term "infectious material", meanwhile, means each of the
8 following:

- 9 (a) Any organism that is capable of producing infection or
10 infectious disease, such as a bacteria, fungus, parasite,
11 protozoan or virus.
12 (b) Any strain of a potentially virulent virus or other disease that
13 was the subject of study and experimentation at one of
14 several level 3 bioresearch labs located in the regions
15 affected by recent hurricanes and flooding.
16 (c) Any carrier acting as a vector for spreading infectious
17 organisms or virulent diseases, or both, such as a
18 decaying corpse, or a living nonhuman agent such as an
19 infected rodent or an escaped laboratory test animal.

20
21 Sec. 3. Provision of closed containers. - Any contractor, operator, or entity,
22 duly contracted to carry out garbage collection in Metro Manila and other
23 parts of the country, shall place all collected garbage inside closed containers.
24 Use of open garbage trucks is strictly prohibited.

25
26 Sec. 4. Comprehensive guidelines. - The secretary of the Department of
27 Health, in coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural
28 Resources, and other appropriate and concerned agencies shall come up with
29 comprehensive guidelines, which shall be strictly observed by any responder
30 or clean-up crew deployed to attend to rescue or cleanup operations in
31 disaster areas, where presence of hazardous and infectious materials shall
32 place them at greater risks.

1 Specifically, the guidelines adopted shall ensure that-

2

3 (A) worksites and areas where responders and clean-up crews are to
4 be sent are subject to a full environmental assessment and
5 identification of hazards through onsite evaluation and monitoring and
6 identification of workers likely to be facing high risk of hazardous
7 exposures;

8

9 (B) relief, reconstruction and clean-up workers of all contributing
10 agencies, whether government or private –

11

12 (i) are properly informed of the environmental hazards they may
13 face in their work;

14 (ii) are provided proper training in handling toxic materials;

15 (iii) are provided with the proper protective equipment (such as
16 respirators to protect against airborne toxins), and guidelines
17 and training for using them; and (iv) receive proper
18 immunizations, where necessary and appropriate;

19

20 (C) these efforts are coordinated in close collaboration with local
21 employers, unions and safety and health professionals.

22

23 Sec. 5. Periodic medical check-up. - All individuals involved in garbage
24 collection, working in dumpsites or assigned in disaster areas, shall be
25 required to undergo period mandatory medical check-up to ensure that their
26 health and safety are not prejudiced by their activities. The proper
27 government agencies or private corporations or entities who employ said
28 individuals shall provide for the necessary fund to finance the cost of medical
29 attention or intervention that may be needed.

30

31 Sec. 6. Penalties. - Any person who violates any provisions of this Act shall be
32 liable to payment of fines ranging from two hundred thousand pesos

1 (P200,000.00) to five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00), including
2 revocation of necessary license to operate as regards private entities.

3

4 Sec.7. Separability clause. - If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or
5 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise
6 affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

7

8 Sec. 8. Repealing clause. - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
9 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to
10 or inconsistent with the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or
11 amended accordingly.

12

13 Sec. 9. Effectivity clause. -This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
14 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

15

16 Approved,