

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*First Regular Session* )



SENATE  
Office of the Secretary

SENATE

'19 JUL -1 P1 :41

S. No. 65

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Introduced by Senator **PIA S. CAYETANO**

**AN ACT**  
**PROVIDING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND**  
**COMMUNITIES IN THE COUNTRY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In a study entitled *Overview of Internal Migration in Philippines*<sup>1</sup>, it was discussed that the urban population in the Philippines has increased by over 50 million in the last 50 years. This rapid urban migration resulted from the popular view that urban areas provide offer better opportunities for the rural poor. However, this has instead led to the increase in the incidence of urban poverty and inequality as well as homelessness and informal settlement in our cities.

The Philippines as one of the countries to adopt the United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda is committed to integrate the Sustainable Development Goals into our national development plans and policies. One of these goals is to "make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable" (SDG 11)<sup>2</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> "Overview of Internal Migration in Philippines" (A policy brief jointly produced by UNESCO, UNDP, IOM, and UN-Habitat), <https://bangkok.unesco.org/sites/default/files/assets/article/Social%20and%20Human%20Sciences/publications/philippines.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> United Nations. (n.d.). Sustainable Development Goal 11. Retrieved from <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg11>

This bill seeks to fulfil our international obligations with regard to Sustainable Development Goal 11 of the Sustainable Development Agenda, address the problems brought about by rapid urban growth, and ensure that the development of cities and communities in the country will be geared towards sustainability, by encouraging and providing the necessary support to local government units so that they can transition into sustainable cities and communities.

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



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

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as “Sustainable Cities and  
2 Communities Act”.

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The 1987 Constitution mandates the  
4 undertaking of a program of urban land reform and housing which will make decent  
5 housing and basic services available at affordable cost to underprivileged and  
6 homeless citizens in urban centers and resettlements areas, and ensure the  
7 availability of employment opportunities for them.

8 Pursuant thereto, it is hereby declared the policy of the State to make cities  
9 safe and sustainable by ensuring access to safe and affordable housing, and  
10 upgrading slum settlements.

11 The State shall likewise invest in public transport, create green public spaces,  
12 and improve urban planning and management in a way that is both participatory  
13 and inclusive.

14 Sec. 3. *Model for Sustainable Cities and Communities.* – Existing cities and  
15 communities shall transition into sustainable cities and communities. A sustainable  
16 city or community shall have the following:

- 17 (a) Affordable housing;  
18 (b) Accessible healthcare services and facilities;

- 1 (c) Accessible social services to all, especially the vulnerable and
- 2 disadvantaged;
- 3 (d) Child care facilities, youth centers, centers for senior citizens and
- 4 other sectors;
- 5 (e) Efficient, accessible, and affordable public transport system;
- 6 (f) Alternative means of getting from one place to another, other than
- 7 private and public vehicles, such as by walking, biking, using
- 8 scooters, and other eco-friendly and non-motorized modes;
- 9 (g) Safe, accessible, and enjoyable areas of open space;
- 10 (h) Preference for use of renewable resources;
- 11 (i) Waste management system, where waste is recycled, wherever
- 12 possible;
- 13 (j) Energy efficient homes;
- 14 (k) Strong community linkages to deal with issues such as peace and
- 15 order; and
- 16 (l) Access to sports and cultural activities.

17 Sec. 4. *Indicators.* – The National Economic and Development Authority  
18 (NEDA) shall set targets based on the following indicators, taking into consideration  
19 Goal No. 11 of the United Nations Sustainable Development Agenda, to determine if  
20 a city or community has fully transitioned into a sustainable city or community:

- 21 (a) Urban population living in slums –measured in terms of proportion of
- 22 urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate
- 23 housing;
- 24 (b) Public transport access - measured in terms of proportion of
- 25 population that has convenient access to public transport, by sex,
- 26 age and persons with disabilities;
- 27 (c) Sustainable urbanization rates - measured in terms of ratio of land
- 28 consumption rate to population growth rate;
- 29 (d) Urban planning management - measured in terms of proportion of
- 30 cities with a direct participation structure of civil society in urban
- 31 planning and management that operate regularly and democratically;

- 1 (e) Protecting cultural heritage - measured in terms of total public and  
2 private expenditure per capita spent on the preservation, protection  
3 and conservation of all cultural and natural heritage;
- 4 (f) Deaths and injuries from natural disasters - measured in terms of  
5 number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons  
6 attributed to disasters per 100,000 population;
- 7 (g) Economic losses from natural disasters - measured in terms of direct  
8 economic loss in relation to global GDP, damage to critical  
9 infrastructure and number of disruptions to basic services, attributed  
10 to disasters;
- 11 (h) Solid waste management - measured in terms of proportion of urban  
12 solid waste regularly collected and with adequate final discharge out  
13 of total urban solid waste generated;
- 14 (i) Urban air pollution - measured in terms of the annual mean levels of  
15 fine particulate matter;
- 16 (j) Open spaces in cities - measured in terms of average share of the  
17 built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all, by sex,  
18 age and persons with disabilities;
- 19 (k) Safe spaces in cities - measured in terms of proportion of persons  
20 victim of physical or sexual harassment, by sex, age, disability status  
21 and place of occurrence, in the previous 12 months;
- 22 (l) Urban and regional planning - measured in terms of proportion of  
23 population living in cities that implement urban and regional  
24 development plans integrating population projections and resource  
25 needs, by size of city;
- 26 (m) Integrated disaster risk management - measured in terms of  
27 adoption and implementation of national disaster risk reduction  
28 strategies;
- 29 (n) Local disaster risk management –measured in terms of adoption and  
30 implementation of local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with  
31 national disaster risk reduction strategies; and

1 (o) Such other targets based on indicators to be determined by NEDA  
2 consistent with the model of sustainable cities and communities  
3 provided in Section 3 of this Act.

4 *Sec. 5. Support from National Government.* – The Department of Interior and  
5 Local Government (DILG) shall provide the necessary technical assistance and  
6 resource augmentation to LGUs to assist them in transitioning into sustainable cities  
7 and communities.

8 The NEDA and other related agencies are also hereby mandated to extend  
9 the necessary support and provide relevant input towards the effective  
10 implementation of this Act.

11 *Sec. 6. Incentives for Transitioning into Sustainable Cities or Communities.* –  
12 The DILG shall develop a grant or cash award incentive scheme for LGUs that are  
13 able to achieve their annual targets set by NEDA related to transitioning into  
14 sustainable cities and communities.

15 *Sec. 7. Authority to Enter into Contracts and Agreements.* – LGUs are hereby  
16 authorized to enter into contracts or agreements and receive grants, as may be  
17 necessary for the attainment of the objective of this Act.

18 *Sec. 8. Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared  
19 unconstitutional or otherwise invalid, the validity of the other provisions shall not be  
20 affected thereby.

21 *Sec. 9. Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or  
22 parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

23 *Sec. 10. Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from its  
24 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*