

SENATE


S. No. 667



Senate
Office of the Secretary

Introduced by **SENATOR RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.** '19 JUL 22 P 2 :12

AN ACT

RECEIVED BY: 

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

Individuals involved in garbage collection, dumpsite management or people assigned to handle areas of disaster are vulnerable to an unimaginable array of health hazards brought about by the environmental condition of their places of work. The hazards they are exposed to are often foreign to them because majority of these people have little to no training or almost no prior work experience to actually deal with these types of situation. To make matters worse, these people lack the proper equipment for the type of job they are being asked to do hence exposing them to further dangers that may deleteriously prejudice their safety and health.

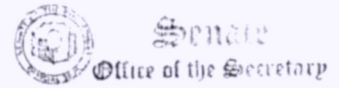
The State has neglected this problem for too long. It is high time for the government to come up with a concrete plan of action to address the needs of these noble workers and protect them from the hazards of their work. It is our duty to protect the people who do the jobs that are essential to keep the country clean, sanitary and livable.

This measure aims to appropriately take action and properly address the needs of these people. It seeks to protect the health and safety of these individuals by requiring equipment and gear essential to preserving their well-being while performing their duties. It also aims to implement mandatory medical check-ups if need be, and the adoption of concrete guidelines that shall be observed and implemented in areas of disaster or waste area management.

Considering that this proposal aims to protect a vital group of individuals who are undeniably instrumental to the well-being of our country, the passage of this bill into law is earnestly sought.


RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

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**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**

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 the "Individuals' Health and
2 Safety Act".

3 Sec. 2. *Provisions of Gloves, Masks and other Proper Protective Equipment.* -
4 No individuals involved in garbage collection, working in dumpsites or assigned in
5 disaster areas may be allowed to continue with any of their respective activities, unless
6 they are properly equipped with protective gloves and masks and other health and
7 safety gears and proper protective equipment, such as but not limited to respirators
8 to protect against airborne toxins, which may be required depending on the nature
9 and extent of risks involved in clean-up operations, where hazardous and infectious
10 chemicals are present.

11
12 For purposes of this Act, the term "hazardous material" includes:

- 13 (a) a petroleum-based product;
14 (b) metal
15 (c) a volatile or semi-volatile organic compound;
16 (d) a pesticide
17 (e) a herbicide;
18 (f) a poly-chlorinated biphenyl; and

1 (g) any biological material in floodwater, surface water, sediment, or soil that
2 may threaten human health or the environment.

3
4 The term "infectious material", meanwhile, means each of the following:

5
6 (a) Any organism that is capable of producing infection or infectious disease,
7 such as a bacteria, fungus, parasite, protozoan or virus;

8 (b) Any strain of a potentially virulent virus or other disease that was the subject
9 of study and experimentation at one of several level 3 bio-research labs located
10 in the regions affected by recent hurricanes and flooding;

11 (c) Any carrier acting as a vector for spreading infectious organisms or virulent
12 diseases, or both, such as a decaying corpse, or a living nonhuman agent such as an
13 infected rodent or escaped laboratory test animal.

14
15 *Sec. 3. Provision of Closed Containers.* - Any contractor, operator, or entity, duly
16 contracted to carry out garbage collection in Metro Manila and other parts of the
17 country, shall place all collected garbage inside closed containers. Use of open garbage
18 trucks is strictly prohibited.

19 *Sec. 4. Comprehensive Guidelines.* - The Secretary of the Department of Health,
20 in coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, and other
21 appropriate and concerned agencies shall come up with comprehensive guidelines,
22 which shall be strictly observed by any responder or clean-up crew deployed to attend
23 to rescue or cleanup operations in disaster areas, where presence of hazardous and
24 infectious materials shall place them at greater risks.

25
26 Specifically, the guidelines adopted shall ensure that-

27
28 (a) Worksites and areas where responders and clean-up crews are to be sent
29 are subject to a full environmental assessment and identification of hazards
30 through onsite evaluation and monitoring and identification of workers likely to
31 be facing high risk of hazardous exposures;

1 (b) Relief, reconstruction and clean-up workers of all contributing agencies,
2 whether government or private-

3
4 (i) Are properly informed of the environmental hazards they may face in
5 their work;

6 (ii) Are provided proper training in handling toxic materials;

7 (iii) Are provided with the proper protective equipment (such as
8 respirators to protect against airborne toxins), and guidelines and
9 training for using them; and

10 (iv) Receive proper immunizations, where necessary and appropriate;

11
12 (c) These efforts are coordinated in close collaboration with local employers,
13 unions and safety and health professionals.

14
15 *Sec. 5. Periodic Medical Check-up.* - All individuals involved in garbage collection,
16 working in dumpsites or assigned in disaster areas, shall be required to undergo period
17 mandatory medical check-up to ensure that their health and safety are not prejudiced
18 by their activities. The proper government agencies or private corporations or entities
19 who employ said individuals shall provide for the necessary fund to finance the cost
20 of medical attention or intervention that may be needed.

21 *Sec. 6. Penalties.* - Any person who violates any provisions of this Act shall be
22 liable to payment of fines ranging from Two Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 200,000.00)
23 to Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 500,000.00), including revocation of necessary
24 license to operate as regards private entities.

25 *Sec. 7. Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or
26 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall
27 remain valid and subsisting.

28 *Sec. 8. Repealing Clause.* - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
29 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or
30 inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified or amended
31 accordingly.

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

3

4 *Approved,*