



SENATE

S. No. 900

'19 AUG 13 P 1 :10

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

**AN ACT
DECLARING THE LAST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH
AS EARTH HOUR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

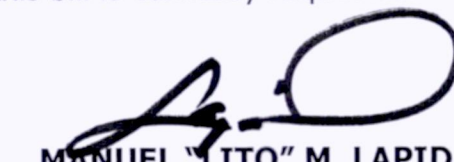
The Earth Hour is an annual worldwide activity that aims to raise awareness on the need to take a stand on climate change by turning off non-essential lights for an hour, from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., every last Saturday of March. The first time the Philippines participated in Earth Hour, there was a registered drop in power consumption by about 78.63 megawatts in Metro Manila and up to 102.2 megawatts in Luzon. The Philippines has been recognized for being the top participant in Earth Hour with 1,671 cities, municipalities, towns, and provinces joining the event.

Participation in this global initiative supports state policy as set out in Section 16 of Article II of the Constitution, stating that "The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature". It is therefore state policy to enact measures that will help resuscitate a failing environment by rousing the consciousness of its citizens on efforts geared towards environmental conservation and protection.

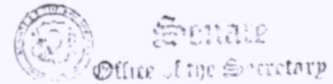
This proposed measure seeks to raise awareness on climate change by requiring everyone to turn off their non-essential lights for one hour every last Saturday of the

month from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m., during which the demand for energy consumption shall be limited, therefore optimistically reducing the production of greenhouse gases.

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


MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Senator

SENATE



S. No. 900

'19 AUG 13 P 1 :11

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**AN ACT
DECLARING THE LAST FRIDAY OF EVERY MONTH
AS EARTH HOUR**

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

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* — This Act shall be known as the "Monthly Earth Hour
2 Act."

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4 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* — It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
5 reaffirm the fundamental right of every person to a balanced and healthful ecology in
6 accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.

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8 Sec. 3. *Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Campaign.* — The
9 Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Department of
10 Education (DepEd), the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the
11 Philippine Information Agency (PIA), in coordination with Non-Governmental
12 Organizations (NGOs), shall conduct a nationwide information, education, and
13 communication (IEC) campaign in order to inform the general public of and raise
14 awareness on the need to conserve energy as a means to combat climate change and
15 other related environmental concerns by promoting the practice of turning off non-
16 essential lights for one hour every last Saturday of the month from 8:30 p.m. to 9:30
17 p.m.

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SEC. 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR)*. — Within six (6) months from the date of effectivity of this Act, the DENR, in consultation with the DepEd and the DILG, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations necessary to implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 5. *Appropriations Clause*. — The amount necessary to implement the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 6. *Separability Clause*. — If any provision or part of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions or parts thereof not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC. 7. *Repealing Clause*. — All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 8. *Effectivity Clause*. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,