

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

5 SEP 22 P1 59

SENATE
S. B. No. 2132

RECEIVED BY: [Signature]

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 2, Section 16 provides 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.

Recycling is a program which has become more and more indispensable to society as a possible solution to various environmental problems. The government itself should take the lead in recycling and other environmentally-sound practices as part of its commitment to a balanced and healthful ecology and achieving growth through sustainable development.

There are three main reasons why using recycled paper is necessary. First, producing recycled paper involves between 28 - 70% less energy consumption than virgin paper and uses less water. This is because most of the energy used in papermaking is the pulping needed to turn wood into paper.

Second, recycled paper produces fewer polluting emissions to air and water. Recycled paper is not usually re-bleached and where it is, oxygen rather than chlorine is usually used. This reduces the amount of dioxins which are released into the environment as a by-product of the chlorine bleaching processes.

Third, paper is a biodegradable material. This means that when it goes to landfill, as it rots, it produces methane, which is a potent greenhouse gas (20 times more potent than carbon dioxide). It is becoming increasingly accepted that global warming is a reality, and that methane and carbon dioxide emissions have to be reduced to lessen its effects.

Because of these reasons, this bill makes it mandatory for all government offices to use recycled paper and other paper products.

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
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5 SEP 22 P2:00

SENATE
S. B. No. 2132

RECEIVED BY: [Signature]

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

AN ACT
TO REQUIRE CONGRESS TO PURCHASE RECYCLED PAPER
AND PAPER PRODUCTS TO THE GREATEST EXTENT PRACTICABLE

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

SECTION 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known and cited as the “Government Recycling Act of 2005”.

SECTION 2. *Requirement for Government Offices to Purchase Recycled Paper and Paper Products.*

(A) *Paper Purchased by Government Offices –*

(1) All government offices, agencies, subsidiaries, instrumentalities, and government-owned and controlled corporations shall take such action as may be necessary to assure that recycled paper and paper products are used to the greatest extent practicable in their operations. Any decision not to use recycled paper or paper products shall be based on a determination that such items are:

- (a) not available; or
- (b) available only at an unreasonable price.

(2) In carrying out the requirement of paragraph (1), the department or division of government offices, agencies, subsidiaries, instrumentalities, and government-owned and controlled corporations responsible for the procurement of paper and other paper products shall, at a minimum, take such action as may be necessary to assure that recycled paper or paper products are purchased under each contract, or subcontract under a contract, for the procurement of 10,000 pounds or more of paper or paper products.

(B) *Unreasonable Price* – For purposes of this Act, an unreasonable price is one which exceeds by more than 10 percent the price of nonrecycled paper or paper products.

SECTION 3. *Annual Reports*. – Each government office, agency, subsidiary, instrumentality, and government-owned and controlled corporation shall publish a report on the implementation of this Act. Each report shall include information on the progress and problems associated with such implementation, and findings and recommendations with respect to such implementation.

SECTION 4. *Separability Clause*. – If any provision or part thereof is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 5. *Repealing Clause*. – All laws, presidential decree or issuance, executive orders, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule and regulation contrary to, or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

SECTION 6. *Effectivity Clause*. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,