

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )

7 JUL -2 11:02

SENATE

FILED BY: 

Senate Bill No. 359

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INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Water is the wellspring of life. Throughout history, civilization has been born beside rivers, waterways and oceans. For water brings not only sustenance but life itself.

With the archipelagic nature of our country, it is regrettable that some of our barangays are still without potable water supply system.

This bill seeks to provide for an accelerated program for the construction of a potable water supply system in every barangay in the country. Through this proposed measure, it is hoped that the government will be able to address the health needs of our people in the rural areas.


Immediate passage of this bill is thus earnestly recommended.

  
JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA  
Senator

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
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7 JUL -2 AM 10:03

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Senate Bill No. 359

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INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

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**AN ACT**  
**TO PROMOTE RURAL HEALTH BY PROVIDING FOR AN ACCELERATED**  
**PROGRAM FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF A POTABLE WATER SUPPLY**  
**SYSTEM IN EVERY BARANGAY IN THE COUNTRY WITHIN THREE YEARS**

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

**SECTION 1. Policy.** It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote the quality of health of every Filipino through the provision of adequate social services including, but not limited to, the provision of an adequate potable water supply system to minimize the exposure of water borne diseases.

**SEC 2. Legal Agency.** The Department of Social Welfare and Development in cooperation with the Department of Health and the Department of Public Works and Highways shall undertake a three year program for the construction of potable water supply system in every barangay throughout the country. The program shall give priority to areas with social and health problems brought about by water-borne diseases taking into consideration population, area served, project cost and other economic, social and environmental factors as may be deemed necessary in undertaking the program within the context of the national development plans. The lead agencies concerned, in consultation with the provincial and municipal development councils, shall determine the areas shall be given priority.

**SEC 3. Program Guidelines.** The lead agencies concerned shall observe the following priorities and guidelines in the planning, construction and management of potable water supply projects:

- (a) Funds provided for in this Act shall be used only for the construction of the new potable water supply system;
- (b) Priority shall be given to the construction of communal water supply;
- (c) The potable water supply projects must be equitably distributed among the provinces and municipalities, giving priority to those provinces and municipalities having inadequate supply of potable water.

- (d) The local government unit concerned shall participate in the project planning, identification, design, management of all project funds, construction and monitoring.
- (e) The potable water supply system shall be managed and maintained by the local government unit concerned.
- (f) The provincial officers of the Department of Social Welfare and Development, Department of Health, and Department of Public Works and Highways, shall be responsible in the preparation of feasibility studies and design of communal potable water supply projects.

**SEC 4. Appropriation.** The sum of Fifty Million Pesos (50,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated for the initial implementation of the provision of this act. Thereafter, the succeeding appropriation for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act until the program shall have been completed.

**SEC 5. Separability Clause.** If any provision of this Act is held unconstitutional, other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

**SEC 6. Repealing Clause.** All laws, presidential decrees, issuances, orders, rules and regulations and inconsistent with the provision of this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

**SEC 7. Effectivity Clause.** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

*Approved,*