

14<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )

SENATE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

S.B.No. 739

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Introduced by Senator Ramon Bong Revilla, Jr.

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#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

**"Water can be without the company of humans but  
we as humans can only be without water for a few days."**

This quotation shows the whole truth about the importance and meaning of water as the main source of nourishment. Its value cannot be overestimated. It is essential for all life on this planet

People in the whole world are drawing attention the global water crisis and promoting solutions that ensure water is a public good, not a commodity to be bought and sold.

Water is a fundamental part of our lives. It is easy to forget how completely we depend on it. Human survival is dependent on water -- water has been ranked by experts as second only to oxygen as essential for life. Consumers are taking matters into their own hands and are now determining the quality of the water they and their families will drink by installing a drinking water system that will give them clean, refreshing, and healthier water.

One of the greatest threats to people's access to water today is that corporate use of water is often prioritized over people's daily use.

As natural rights, water rights are usufructuary rights -- water can be used but not owned. People have a right to life and the resources that sustain it, such as water. The necessity of water to life is why, under the customary laws, the right to water has been accepted as a natural, social fact.

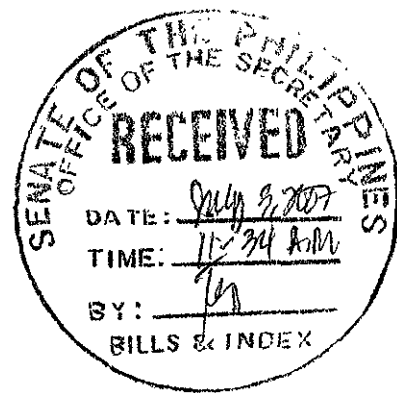
That is why governments and corporations cannot alienate people from their water rights come from nature and creation. They flow from the laws of nature, not from the rules of the market.

This bill seeks to provide reduction in the water rates and charges applicable to the consumers.

The passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

  
RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

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AN ACT  
REDUCING THE WATER RATES AND CHARGES FOR WATER USERS IN  
THE BARANGAY/S HOSTING THE WATER SOURCE WITHIN A WATER  
DISTRICT THEREBY AMENDING SECTION 37, CHAPTER IX, TITLE II OF  
PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 198 AS AMENDED, AND FOR OTHER  
PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Section 37, Chapter IX, Title II of Presidential Decree No. 198 as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“Section 37. Rates and Charges. – Water – A district may sell water under its control, under schedules of rates and charges as may be determined by the Board, to any and all water users within the district: **PROVIDED, THAT SUCH RATES AND CHARGES APPLICABLE TO THE WATER USERS IN THE BARANGAY/S HOSTING THE WATER SOURCE SHALL BE 20% LOWER THAN THE RATES AND CHARGES APPLICABLE TO THE OTHER WATER USERS WITHIN THE DISTRICT.** Said schedule may provide for differential rates fro different categories of use and different quantity bocks. The district, as far as practicable, shall fix such rates and charges for water as will result in revenues which will:

X X X

SECTION 2. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,