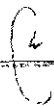


FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC )  
OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
First Regular Session )

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

10 JUL 21 15:04

SENATE  
S. No. 1808

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

#### EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is well known for its extraordinary beaches. Hence, the beaches, especially those used most by the public, should be tested to make sure the water is safe for swimming for both locals and tourists.

This bill requires the Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to: (1) prepare an annual assessment of the compliance of local governments with program requirements; (2) update within 12 months after the effectivity of this Act and biennially after the enactment, the list indicating which coastal recreational waters adjacent to beaches used by the public are, and which of such waters are not, subject to a monitoring and notification program; and (3) study and report to Congress on the long-term impact of climate change on pollution of coastal recreational waters.

This bill further proposes a 2012 deadline for the DENR Secretary to complete its validation of a rapid testing method, which would provide beachgoers with same day information on beach water safety.<sup>1</sup>

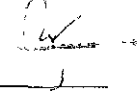
*mir*  
  
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

<sup>1</sup> This bill was originally filed in the third regular session of the 14<sup>th</sup> Congress.

OFFICE OF THE CLERK  
SENATE

10 JUL 21 05:04

SENATE  
S. No. **1808**

RECEIVED BY 

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

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1 AN ACT  
2 PROVIDING PROGRAMS FOR BEACH MONITORING

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

3 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Clean Coastal  
4 Environment and Public Health Act.”

5 SECTION 2. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act, the following terms shall  
6 mean:

7 (A) *Rapid Testing Method* means a method of testing the water quality of coastal  
8 recreation waters for which results are available as soon as practicable and not  
9 more than 2 hours after the commencement of the rapid testing method;

10 (B) *Secretary* means the Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural  
11 Resources;

12 SECTION 3. *Contents of Monitoring and Notification Programs.* – A program for  
13 monitoring and notification shall include monitoring consistent with the performance  
14 criteria as determined by the Secretary, public notification, source tracking, sanitary  
15 surveys, and prevention efforts to address identified sources of contamination by  
16 pathogens and pathogen indicators in coastal recreation waters adjacent to beaches or  
17 similar points of access that are used by the public.

18 SECTION 4. *Validation of Rapid Testing Methods.* – Not later than 30 December  
19 two year after the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary shall complete an evaluation and

1 validation of a rapid testing method for the water quality criteria and standards for  
2 pathogens and pathogen indicators.

3 SECTION 5. *Guidance for Use of Rapid Testing Methods.* – Not later than 180  
4 days after the date of completion of the validation and after providing notice and an  
5 opportunity for public comment, the Secretary shall publish guidance for the use at  
6 coastal recreation waters adjacent to beaches or similar points of access that are used by  
7 the public of rapid testing methods that will enhance the protection of public health and  
8 safety through rapid public notification of any exceedance of applicable water quality  
9 standards for pathogens and pathogen indicators.

10 In developing guidance, the Secretary shall require the use of rapid testing  
11 methods at those beaches or similar points of access that are the most used by the public.

12 SECTION 6. *Information Dissemination.* – The Secretary shall provide  
13 information to the public about coastal recreation waters, which is publicly accessible and  
14 searchable on the Internet; organized by beach or similar point of access; identifies  
15 applicable water quality standards, monitoring protocols, sampling plans and results, and  
16 the number and cause of coastal recreation water closures and advisory days; and updated  
17 within 24 hours of the availability of revised information;

18 SECTION 7. *National List of Beaches.* – Not later than 1 year after the effectivity  
19 of this Act, the Secretary shall make a National List of Beaches, which shall be updated  
20 biennially.

21 SECTION 8. *Compliance Review.* – On or before 31 July of each calendar year  
22 beginning after the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary shall:

23 (A) prepare a written assessment of compliance with all statutory and regulatory  
24 requirements of this Act for each local government;

25 (B) notify the local government of each such assessment; and

26 (C) make each of the assessments available to the public in a searchable database  
27 on the Internet on or before 31 December of the applicable calendar year.

1           SECTION 9. *Impact of Climate Change on the Pollution of Coastal Recreation*  
2 *Waters.* – The Secretary shall conduct a study on the long-term impact of climate change  
3 on pollution of coastal recreation waters. A report on the study shall be submitted to  
4 Congress.

5           The report shall include information on potential contaminant impacts on ground  
6 and surface water resources; and public and ecosystem health in coastal communities.  
7 The report shall also address monitoring required to document and assess changing  
8 conditions of coastal water resources, recreational waters, and ecosystems; and review  
9 the current ability to assess and forecast impacts associated with long-term change.

10          SECTION 10. *Impact of Algae on Coastal Recreation Waters.* – Not later than 1  
11 year after the date of effectivity of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a  
12 study on the impact of algae on coastal recreation waters. The following should be  
13 considered in preparing the study: (a) quantify the levels of algae that cause problems at  
14 recreational beaches; and (b) quantify the concentrations of phosphorus that may be  
15 associated with algae problems;

16          SECTION 11. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part of this Act is held  
17 invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the Act or the provision not otherwise  
18 affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

19          SECTION 12. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance,  
20 executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to,  
21 or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended  
22 accordingly.

23          SECTION 13. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days  
24 after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,