

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6739



Introduced by **MAGDALO Party List Representative**
HON. MANUEL DG. CABOCHAN III

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Presidential Decree (PD) No. 979 states that it is the policy of the State to prevent and control the pollution of seas caused by the dumping of wastes and other matter. These actions may create hazards to human health, harm living resources and marine life, damage amenities, or interfere with the legitimate uses of the sea within the territorial jurisdiction of the Philippines. However, PD No. 979, having been enacted in 1979, provides only a fine of P200 to P10,000 and imprisonment of not less than thirty days. Evidently, there is a need to update PD No. 979 to give more gravity on the penalties it imposes.

It is only just and imperative to provide stiffer civil and criminal penalties against polluters of our marine environment considering our dependence on the sea and other bodies of water for our transportation, livelihood and other related industries. This bill seeks to increase the penalties being imposed and provided for under the present law to a fine of not less than Five Million Pesos (P5,000,000.00) or imprisonment of not less than 8 years and 1 day to 12 years, or both such fine and imprisonment. It is hoped that this measure would provide deterrence on activities causing marine pollution.

The immediate passage of this bill is earnestly recommended.

MANUEL DG. CABOCHAN III
Representative
Magdalo Para Sa Pilipino Party-List

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AN ACT
INCREASING THE PENALTY IMPOSED AGAINST POLLUTERS OF
NAVIGABLE WATERS BY AMENDING SECTION 7 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE
NO. 979 PROVIDING FOR THE REVISION OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 600
GOVERNING MARINE POLLUTION

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

1 **SECTION 1.** Section 7 of Presidential Decree No. 979 is hereby amended to read as
2 follows:

3
4 "SEC. 7. *Penalties for Violations.* – Any person who violates Section 4 of this Decree
5 or any regulations prescribed in pursuance thereof, shall be liable for a fine of not less
6 than [Two Hundred Pesos nor more than Ten Thousand Pesos] **FIVE MILLION**
7 **PESOS** or by imprisonment of not less than [thirty days] **EIGHT YEARS AND**
8 **ONE DAY** nor more than [one year] **TWELVE YEARS** or both such fine and
9 imprisonment, for each offense, without prejudice to the civil liability of the offender
10 in accordance with existing laws.

11
12 Any vessel from which oil or other harmful substances are discharged in violation of
13 Section 4 or any regulation prescribed in pursuance thereof, shall be liable for the
14 penalty of fine specified in this section, and clearance of such vessel from the port of
15 the Philippines may be withheld until the fine is paid.

16
17 In addition to the penalties above prescribed, the Philippine Coast Guard shall provide
18 in its rules and regulations such reasonable administrative penalties as may be
19 necessary for the effective implementation of this Decree."

20
21 **SEC. 2. *Repealing Clause.*** – All provisions of laws, orders, decrees, including rules
22 and regulations inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

1
2 **SEC. 3. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision or part of this Act is declared invalid
3 or unconstitutional, other provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to
4 be in fun force and effect.

5
6 **SEC. 4. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its
7 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general
8 circulation.

Approved,