

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

House Bill No. 739

Introduced by **HON. ROZZANO RUFINO B. BIAZON**


EXPLANATORY NOTE

Presidential Decree No. 979 states that it is the policy of the state to prevent and control the pollution of seas by the dropping of wastes and other matter which 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.

In lieu of this, it is only just and imperative to provide stiffer civil and criminal penalties against those polluters of our marine environment since we are very dependent 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 nor more than 12 years or both such fine and imprisonment.

In view of the foregoing, the early passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


ROZZANO RUFINO B. BIAZON,
Representative
Lone District, Muntinlupa City

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AN ACT
INCREASING THE PENALTY IMPOSED AGAINST POLLUTERS OF
NAVIGABLE WATERS BY AMENDING SECTION 7 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE
NO. 979.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Sec. 3. *Repealing Clause.* – All provisions of laws, orders, decrees, including rules and regulations inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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

Approved.