

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session
HOUSE BILL NO. 1626

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
RECEIVED	
DATE:	18 JUL 2016
TIME:	2:22 PM
BY:	JS
REGISTRATION UNIT BILLS AND INDEX SERVICE	

Introduced by Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo

EXPLANATORY NOTE

A well-meaning newspaper columnist suggested an effective ban on firecrackers in order to prevent mayhem resulting from the culmination of the New Year's celebration by most of the people who have been used to buying firecrackers and pyrotechnics unmindful of their dangers to life and limb.

This measure therefore attempts to second that proposal

Under this bills' intent, violators will be imposed the higher penalties and fines amounting to no less than P500,000 to not more than P1,500,000 if found guilty of the manufacture and/or sale of what are defined as "unsafe" firecrackers and pyrotechnics as those causing serious injury, harm and possible death on the individual that uses them. In fact, this measure makes equal regard to factories and outlets or stores that sell these otherwise unsafe or dangerous products.

Inasmuch as governance under our system is decentralized, it is hereby enjoined that local government units in their respective jurisdictions and territories shall strictly monitor the prohibitive intent of this measure against those who otherwise wilfully violate ban on the manufacture and/or sale of unsafe firecrackers or pyrotechnics.

It is the humble view of this author that "unsafe" firecrackers or pyrotechnics sold in the shelves of stores or clandestinely with prospective buyers actually constitute serious danger waiting to happen upon those who might knowingly or unwittingly buy them from those who manufacture or sell them in open markets.

Firecrackers or pyrotechnics that generally explode in flight and in the sky in a kaleidoscope and sounds shall be generally regarded as the safe fireworks consistent however with appropriate prescribed specifications as those issued jointly in a memorandum by the Philippine National Police and the Department of Health.

Immediate passage of this bill is therefore prayed for.


WINNIE CASTELO

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HOUSE BILL NO. _____

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AN ACT
BANNING MANUFACTURE AND/OR SALE IN STORES OF UNSAFE
FIRECRACKERS/PYROTECHNICS THEREBY MOBILIZING COGNIZANT GOVERNMENT
UNITS TO STRICTLY IMPLEMENT SUCH BAN IN ACCORDANCE WITH HIGHER
PENALTIES/FINES IMPOSED FOR VIOLATION THEREOF AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the 'Pyrotechnics Industry Safety Guidelines Act of 2016.'

SEC. 2. Under this Act, "unsafe" firecrackers or pyrotechnics shall hereby be defined as causing serious injury, harm, and possible loss of life and generally refer to such fireworks other than those that explode in flight and in the sky in a kaleidoscope and sounds.

Further technical specification shall heretofore be accordingly issued by the Firearms and Explosives Unit of the Philippine National Police and the Department of Health in an appropriate joint memorandum of implementation prescribing only safe firecrackers and pyrotechnics for manufacture and sale.

SEC. 3. There shall hereby be prescribed higher penalties and fines amounting to P500,000 to P1,500,000 for violation hereof as would be validated by joint Philippine National Police and Department of Health Inspection Team.

SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect upon approval and publication in the Official Gazette.

Approved,