

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. _____

2969

REGISTRATION UNIT
BILLS AND INDEX SERVICE

OFFICE OF THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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BY: eli

Introduced by
HON. ELENITA MILAGROS "EILEEN" ERMITA-BUHAIN

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill is in furtherance of the provision of the Constitution, to wit:

"The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature. (Section 16, Article II)."

The Philippines is an archipelago consisting of around 7,100 islands and has one of the world's longest coastlines roughly the equivalent of the earth's circumference (34,000 Kilometers). Our country, as experts say, is a "climate hotspot, vulnerable to some of the worst manifestations of climate change". That it will not be spared of the adverse impacts of sea-level rise and extreme climate events that are expected to happen in a warmer world.

Accelerated sea level rise is one of the most certain outcomes of global warming and the Philippines should seriously consider the potential effects and possible responses to accelerated sea level rise. The physical effects of sea level rise include inundation (submergence) of low-lying wetland and dryland areas, erosion, salt water intrusion, increased risk of flooding, and storm damage. As a consequence, these physical changes may cause substantial socio-economic losses of coastal structures, both natural and man-made, and dislocation of the population and change of livelihood.

As a developing country, with very little access to vital resources, it has a low ability to adapt and a lower ability to cope with disasters brought about by climate change impacts. Yet, even with the emerging trends of climate variability, many provinces in the Philippines are still not aware of their vulnerability, much less be able to prepare to cope with its impacts.

This bill aims to develop national and local adaptation strategies to improve the ability of coastal inhabitants to cope with the impact of climate change. The challenge now is to create integrated and holistic strategies to ensure everyone's security when facing the challenges that climate change will bring.

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



ELENITA MILAGROS "EILEEN" ERMITA-BUHAIN

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HOUSE BILL NO. 2969

Introduced by
HON. ELENITA MILAGROS "EILEEN" ERMITA-BUHAIN

AN ACT
TO ESTABLISH A COASTAL CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PROGRAM
FOR COASTAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (CLGUs) BY PROVIDING
THEM FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE

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

SECTION 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known and cited as the “Coastal Climate Change Adaptation Program of 2016”.

SEC. 2. *Establishment of Coastal Climate Change Adaptation Program.* – The Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) shall establish a Coastal Climate Change Adaptation Program to ensure a well-developed and effective strategy formulation by:

1. Providing assistance to coastal local government units (CLGUs) to voluntarily develop their coastal climate change adaptation programs to address climate change issues within their areas of responsibilities and prepare for and reduce the negative consequences that may result from climate change; and
2. Providing financial and technical assistance and training to enable CLGUs to implement plans developed pursuant to this Act.

SEC. 3. *Climate Change Adaptation Grant Guidelines.* – The Secretary of the DILG shall, in consultation with CLGUs, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and other sectors such as the academe/research, private and financial institutions and non-government organizations, issue

guidelines for the implementation of the grant program under this Act. Pursuant to such guidelines, the Secretary may make grant to any CLGUs for the purpose of developing climate change adaptation plans.

SEC. 4. *Contents of the Plan.* - A plan developed with a grant under this section shall include the following:

1. Identification of public facilities and public services, working waterfronts, coastal resources of national significance, coastal waters, energy facilities, or other land and water uses located in the coastal zone that are likely to be impacted by climate change;
2. Adaptive management strategies for land use to respond or adapt to changing environmental conditions, including strategies to protect biodiversity, protect water quality, and establish habitat buffer zones, and migration corridors;
3. Requirements to initiate and maintain long-term monitoring of environmental change to assess coastal zone adaptation and to adjust when necessary adaptive management strategies and new planning guidelines;
4. Develop a multi-hazard mitigation and protection plan for natural coastal hazards, with priority on the maximum reduction in threat to life, structures, and economic production.
5. Other information considered necessary by the Secretary to identify the full range of climate change impacts affecting coastal communities.

SEC. 5. *Prioritization.* - In awarding grants, as provided in this Act, the Secretary of the DILG, upon its own determination, shall give priority to CLGUs who are most prone to climate change disasters.

SEC. 6. *Appropriations.* - The amount necessary for the effective implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act of the DILG on the year following the approval of this Act and in every year thereafter.

SEC. 7. *Report.* - Within two (2) years from the effectivity of this Act, the DENR shall submit an accomplishment report of the grant program to the appropriate committees in the Senate and the House of Representatives.

SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, ordinances, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 9. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,