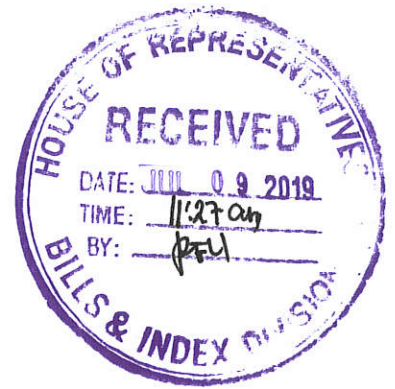


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

1675

HOUSE BILL NO. _____



Introduced by **HON. LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is a massive consumer of electronic devices. The penetration rate of mobile phones is at 117%, or 119 million mobile phone subscriptions. While the number of phone subscriptions does not automatically translate to an equivalent number of cellphone units, it cannot be denied that millions of mobile phones are being imported, produced, consumed, and disposed within our shores. Apart of mobile phones, a typical Filipino household has numerous electronic gadgets and devices used in different parts of the home. In the United States of America (USA), a typical household has an average of 24 pieces of electronic items. It mortifies one's common sense and belies our national environmental protection drive to note that we have not passed a single law that mandates the proper waste disposal management of these electronic devices.

It is high time that we realize the health and environmental risks of improperly and irresponsibly disposing electronic devices, and at the same time, understand that a tremendous amount of resources actually goes to waste each time old electronic gadgets are left to gather dust in storage or mixed with other solid waste in garbage sites. Thus, this bill mandates that electronic devices be recycled or reused, and individuals and waste management facilities that fail to responsibly dispose the same be penalized.

Electronic devices are literally teeming with minerals and precious metals. The US Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) reports that for every one million smartphones recycled, more than 34 kilograms of gold, 350 kilograms of silver, 15

kilograms of palladium and more than 15,000 kilograms of copper can be reused. Along with these valuable metals are toxins that need proper and sensitive handling. For instance, the toxic substance *freon* found in refrigerators and other cooling devices is disastrous to the ozone layer. Meanwhile, computers, television sets and cell phones contain lead, cadmium and mercury, among many others, that can pollute air and water, and pose serious health risks to human beings and the wildlife when released to the environment¹.

Internationally, some jurisdictions are already on top of innovative bills that address the disposal of these special hazardous items. In Oregon, their state legislature is working on a bill to require companies selling hazardous household products to fund and manage programs to collect and safely recycle or dispose of those products.

It is enshrined in the Constitution that the State safeguard and promote the health and safety of its people, and protect and preserve its environment and natural resources. This Representation humbly believes that this bill is a significant step towards the right directions.

In light of the foregoing premises, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.

¹ <https://www.oregonmetro.gov/news/when-gadgets-become-garbage-how-recycle-electronics>

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HOUSE BILL NO. 1675

Introduced by HON. LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.

AN ACT
PROHIBITING THE DISPOSAL OF ELECTRONIC DEVICES AT SOLID WASTE
MANAGEMENT FACILITIES

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

Section 1. Definition. – As used in this Act, “*electronic device*” refers to a desktop or laptop computer, computer monitor, portable computer, cathode ray tube, flat panel based television, or cellular phones.

Sec. 2. Prohibitions. –

(A) No person shall knowingly dispose of any electronic device in mixed solid waste; and

(B) No Solid Waste Management Facility shall knowingly accept for disposal or incineration any electronic device, or any truckload or container of solid waste which includes electronic device.

Sec. 3. Penalty. – Any violation of Section 2(A) of this Act shall be punished with a fine of twenty thousand pesos (P20,000.00) and imprisonment of not less than one month but not more than three months. Any violation of Section 2(B) of this Act shall be punished with a fine of fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) and revocation of the license of the Solid Waste Management Facility.

Sec. 4. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions hereof.

Sec. 5. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, orders, and issuances, or portions thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

Sec. 6. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,