

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



House Bill No. **3200**

Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE ERIC L. OLIVAREZ

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Earth Hour is a worldwide campaign for our home planted organized by the World Wide Fund for Nature. The event is held worldwide annually encouraging individuals, communities, households, and businesses to turn off their non-essential lights for one hour, usually from 8:30-9:30 pm on the last Saturday of March to signify commitment to the planet and its preservation.

The Philippines is one of the many countries that participated in such movement. We have successfully encouraged and engaged several establishments and households in our own country to join this good cause, along with more than 96 countries in 6 continents.

In fact, in March 2013, the Philippine Electricity Market Corp. noted that power consumption dropped by about 78.63 megawatts in Metro Manila, and up to 102.2 megawatts in Luzon. The maximum demand drop of around 39 ME was experienced at 8:14 pm in Metro Manila and around 116 MW at 8:34 p.m. in the Luzon grid. (Source: Inquirer)

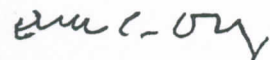
The governments of Quezon City, Manila, Pasay, Parañaque, Caloocan, and Makati, as well as other non-government organizations and private businesses also took part in the activity.

The foregoing statistics was impressive enough with only six cities in the National Capital Region participating in the Earth Hour. Imagine the overall drop in power consumption when each and every city in our country does its part to save the planet Earth.

The Earth Hour does not only raise awareness to the prevailing global environmental problems we are facing. It actually has an actual impact in that it saves the plane from too much carbon dioxide emission that causes pollution and contributes to the erratic global warming and climate change we are experiencing now.

Through this bill, the annual Earth Hour movement shall be institutionalized and it shall mandate every city in the Philippines to participate and turn their lights off for an hour every last Saturday of the month of March. Once this bill is passed, our power consumption will drop exponentially lower than our current record and this will significantly contribute to the saving and conservation of our electricity and other non-renewable resources, and ultimately, the preservation of our environment and planet. As the saying goes, "Small steps can lead to big changes."

It is for this reason that the approval of this bill is being sought.



ERIC OLIVAREZ

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AN ACT INSTITUTIONALIZING EARTH HOUR.

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* This Act shall be known as “ *The Earth Hour Act of 2019.*”

SECTION 2. *Institutionalization.* It is hereby mandated that Earth Hour be observed by all private individuals, establishments, households, communities, and businesses in the entire country by turning off the lights for an hour from 8:00 to 9:00 pm every last Saturday of the month of March.

SECTION 3. *Exceptions.* Street lights, and other public facilities and equipment operated for public interest, welfare, safety, and security, and purpose need not comply with the Earth Hour movement if doing so would impair the vital operations of said public institution or facility and would prejudice the safety, security and welfare of the general public.

SECTION 4. *Safety Measures.* The private individuals, establishments, households, communities, and businesses participating in the earth hour may use battery charged lights,

flashlights, or lamps that uses minimum or no electricity during earth Hour for safety measures.

SECTION 5. *Information Campaign.* The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and all Local Government Units shall conduct a massive public information campaign at least 30 days prior to the observance of Earth Hour.

SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, presidential decrees, letters of instructions, executive orders, rules and regulations insofar as they are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed or amended as the case may be.

SECTION 7. *Separability Clause.* In the event that any provision of this Act or any portion thereof is declared unconstitutional by a competent court, the other provisions shall not be affected thereby and shall remain valid and enforceable.

SECTION 8. *Effectivity Clause.* This Act shall take effect after its complete publication in at least three (3) newspapers of general circulation.

APPROVED