Republic of the Philippines HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES Ouezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6085



Introduced by: HON. "KUYA" JOSE ANTONIO R. SY-ALVARADO

AN ACT BANNING THE MANUFACTURE, IMPORTATION, SALE, AND USE OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC PRODUCTS, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEROF

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Plastic is a miracle material that saved countless lives, facilitated growth of energy and revolutionized safe food storage. Plastic has become part of our modern lives – they are cheap and convenient. However, the convenience of these single-use plastics comes at a very high cost to the environment, human health and our country's economy.

They do not only pollute our water but also our land, block drainages and cause flooding, harm both marine and wildlife, is a blight particularly in coastal areas, waterways and public spaces, and take up valuable space in waste disposal facilities where they will persist for hundreds of years because they do not degrade. In addition, the production and distribution of plastic bags contribute significantly to climate change.

In the Philippines, the problem in plastic pollution is very alarming —ranked by the Ocean Conservancy charity and the McKinsey Centre for Business and Environment as the third biggest ocean polluter of plastic. A report written by the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA) titled "Plastic Exposed: How Waste Assessments and Brand Audits are Helping Cities Fight Plastic Pollution" revealed that Filipinos use more than 163 million plastic sachet packets, 48 million shopping bags, and 45 million thin film bags daily. These number are based on Waste Assessment and Brand Audit (WABA) methodology.

This bill aims to ban the manufacture, sale and use of single-use plastic products to prevent further damage to the environment and to provide strong penalties to deter violations that will help in ensuring a sustainable and safe community.

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

"KUYA" JOSE ANTONIO R. SY-ALVARADO

Representative First District of Bulacan

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

SECTION 1. Title. - This Act shall be known as the "Single-Use Plastic Ban of 2020".

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. It shall be the policy of the State to protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature. It shall also be the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

(a) Single-use plastic – shall refer to disposable plastic products which are commonly used for packaging and include items intended to be used only once before they are thrown away or recycled;

SECTION 4. Prohibition and Phase-out of Single-Use Products. The manufacture, sale, importation, and use of single-use plastic products shall be prohibited within one (1) year after the effectivity of this Act.

SECTION 5. Phase-out Plan for Single-Use Plastic Products. A plan to phase out single-use plastic products shall be formulated within three (3) months upon the effectivity of this Act by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) with cooperation of Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), Department of Finance (DOF), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), and other concerned agencies of the government.

The phase out plan shall cover the following:

1. Prohibition of single-use plastics by food establishments, retail stores, markets, supermarkets and groceries during interim period;

2. Awareness-raising to encourage consumers to use reusable materials in substitution for single-use plastics, and to encourage proper recycling of plastic products.

3. Collection, recycling, and proper disposal by the manufacturers of single-use plastic products already in circulation prior to the effectivity of the ban;

4. Establishment of recycling centers in local government units.

SECTION 6. Prohibition on the importation of single-use plastics. Within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Finance, through the Bureau of Customs (BOC) in coordination with relevant agencies, shall ensure that no single-use plastics will be imported to the country.

SECTION 7. Recycling of used single-use plastics. It shall be the duty if the plastic manufacturer to properly collect and recycle the single-use plastics they produced that are already in circulation prior to the effectivity of the ban, in the manner that is consistent with existing laws, rules, and regulations and using mechanism to ensure that no harmful chemical or substances are released to the environment.

SECTION 8. Compliance Monitoring. The DENR, DTI, in coordination with LGUs, shall conduct regular inspection and monitoring of this Act. The certification of compliance shall be necessary for the renewal of local business permits of manufacturers and business establishments.

SECTION 9. Penalties and Sanctions. The following penalties shall be imposed for violations of the provisions of sections 4, 6, and 7.

First offense Second offense Third offense a fine of five thousand pesos (Php 5,000.00)

a fine of twenty-five thousand pesos (Php.25,000.00

a fine of two hundred fifty thousand pesos

(Php250,000.00) and the cancellation of its business permit. Thereafter, the business establishment, manufacturer, or business permit for a period of five (5) years and approval of business permit is contingent with proof of measures undertaken to comply with this Act and other relevant laws, rules and regulations.

If the offender is a corporation, trust, or firm, partnership, association or any other entity, the penalty shall be imposed on the entity's responsible officers, such as but not limited to, the president, chief executive officer, general manager, managing director, or partner directly responsible thereof.

SECTION 10. Responsibilities of the Local Government Units. To promote the implementation of this Act, the LGUs shall be responsible for the following:

1. Improve the capacity of LGUs and local law enforcement agencies for the implementation of this Act;

2. Establish recycling centers and encourage the establishment of business enterprises that promote zero-waste;

3. Conduct information and awareness-raising campaigns on single-use plastic regulation.

SECTION 11. Implementing Rules and Regulations. The Department of Environmental and Natural Resources (DENR), in coordination with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), and other concerned government agencies shall issue the implementing rules and regulations within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act.

SECTION 12. Appropriations. The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the budget of concerned government agencies in the General Appropriations Act of the Year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

The LGU shall allocate necessary funding from their Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA) to cover the programs under this Act.

SECTION 13. Separability Clause. If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions hereof.

SECTION 14. Repealing Clause. All laws, decrees, orders, issuances or portion thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 15. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

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