

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3723



Introduced by **HON. JOY MYRA S. TAMBUNTING**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This piece of legislation seeks to reduce or minimize the use of plastic bags which destroy the environment. This Act shall be known as "The Plastic Bag Recycling Act of 2019."

What's wrong with plastic bags? Plastics bags are seen as a symbol of a wasteful society as they are a form of packaging that is often not essential.

Plastic bags are a problem for various reasons. Plastic carryout bags and film plastic are not biodegrade. The bags break down into smaller and smaller toxic bits that contaminate soil and waterways.

There are many efforts being made around the world to combat this problem and reduce the use of these bags. As a single use disposable form of packaging, plastic bags are typically used for a short period of time but take hundreds of years to break down in landfill. Plastic bags are an extremely visible and unsightly component of litter. If plastic bags continue to be used, the number of bags littering the environment will increased over time.

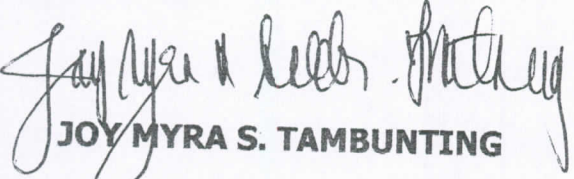
Salient provisions of this proposal requires that retailers establish an at-store recycling program and to offer reusable bags (such as canvas or cloth).

This representation further finds and determines that we must reduce the use of plastic bags and encourage the use of reusable bags in order to reduce and decrease litter and benefit the environment.

The proposed recycling program furthers and favors programs that maximize material reuse and recycling and programs that use energy efficient recycling processes.

More so, it is 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.

Hence, urgent passage of this legislation is urgently sought.


JOY MYRA S. TAMBUNTING

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**AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE CREATION OF "THE PLASTIC BAG RECYCLING ACT
OF 2019" AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as "The Plastic Bag Recycling Act of 2019."

SECTION 2. *State Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to protect and advance the rights of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.

SECTION 3. *Purpose.* – To encourage the use of reusable bags amongst consumers and retailers and to reduce the consumption of single-use bags, and to require an at-store recycling program for plastic bags.

SECTION 4. *Objective.* – To determine and implement programs that maximize material reuse, recycling and programs that use energy efficient processes.

SECTION 5. *Coverage.* – A retail establishment that provides plastic carryout bags to its customers as a result of the sale of consumer goods.

SECTION 6. *At-Store Recycling Program.* – The operator of a store shall establish an at-store recycling program pursuant to the provisions of this Act that provides an opportunity for the public to return to the store plastic carryout bags from retail store or any other retail source.

SECTION 7. *Penalties.* – Any operator who violates any provision of this article shall be punished by a fine not to exceed P100,000.00 for a first offence; by a fine not to exceed P150,000 for a second offence; and by a fine not to exceed P200,000 for a third and each subsequent offence committed in any twelve-month period. Each day that an operator fails to comply with this article shall constitute a separate and distinct violation.

SECTION 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) together with the stakeholders and other

related government agencies and entities shall promulgate the rules and regulations as it deems necessary and appropriate for the implementation and enforcement of the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, presidential proclamation, rules, regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

SECTION 10. *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 11. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,