

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

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 773

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
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Introduced by **DIWA Party-list Representative Emmeline Y. Aglipay – Villar**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Climate change and the significance of environmental law is no longer just a mere political issue. It has already evolved into a moral issue for us. As we have experienced the worsening effects of climate change over the past years, it has now become our collective moral obligation to ensure that we take actions to somehow address this issue. Although we may be a considerably small nation who can only have so much contribution in resolving the global issue of climate change, this does not excuse us from not doing whatever we can to help combat this humanitarian concern.

One of the worst aspects of our environmental policy is failure to take cognizance of some of the worst practices we have been doing. Being an archipelago and a tropical country, we rely much on our marine and aquatic resources. Almost our entire country is surrounded by different water resources. This has been a source of livelihood for most of our countrymen and a source of pride for our tourism industry as well. Unfortunately, we have consistently taken our water resources for granted. Water pollution has remained to be among our perennial environmental concern for the past years. According to the Environmental management Bureau, 40% of our freshwater bodies have only fair water quality, while 13% showed poor water quality. It is for this reason that this bill, based on House Bill No. 3474 filed by Rep. Rufus B. Rodriguez and Rep. Maximo B. Rodriguez, Jr. last 16th Congress, is being filed to ensure that we finally put an end to our destructive practice of dumping our wastes in our waters.

Emmeline Y. Villar
EMMELINE Y. AGLIPAY – VILLAR
Representative, DIWA Party-list

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ANACT
PROVIDING A BAN ON DUMPING OF SEWAGE SLUDGE AND
INDUSTRIAL WASTE INTO THE SEA

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. This shall be known as the “Sea Dumping Ban Act”.

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. -It is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote the natural balance of the environment for the protection of human health and safety.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. – For purposes of this Act, the term:

1. “Alternative system” means any method for the management of sewage or industrial waste which does not require a permit under this Act;
2. “Excluded material” means:
 - a. Any dredged material discharged by the Philippine Army Corps of Engineers or discharged pursuant to a permit issued by the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources;
 - b. Any waste from any industrial operation located in the Philippines or discharge pursuant to a permit signed by the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources
3. “Industrial waste” means any solid, semi-solid, or liquid waste dumped by a manufacturing or processing plant other than an excluded material
4. “Interim measure” means any short-term method for the management of sewage sludge or industrial wastes which:
 - a. Is used before implementation of an alternative system;
 - b. Does not require a permit under this Act;
5. “Sewage sludge” means any solid, semi-solid, or liquid waste generated by a wastewater treatment plant, other than an excluded material.

SECTION 4. Prohibited Acts. - No person shall dump into sea waters or transport for the purpose of dumping into sea waters, sewage sludge or industrial waste, unless such person has obtained a permit issued by the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources which authorizes such transportation and dumping.

SECTION 5. Penalties. - Any person who dumps into ocean waters or transports for the purpose of dumping into ocean waters, sewage sludge, or industrial waste, unless allowed under Section 4, shall be liable in the amount of not less than Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50, 000.00) nor more than Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P500, 000.00) or imprisonment of not less than three (3) months but not more than six (6) years, or both at the discretion of the court. If the offense is committed by a corporation, trust, firm, partnership or association, or other entity, the penalty shall be imposed upon the guilty officer or officers of such corporation, trust, firm, partnership or association or other entity.

SECTION 6. Enforcement Monitoring Report. - Not later than six (6) months after the date of the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, in consultation with the Secretary of the Department of Transportation and Communications, shall submit a report to the Congress. The report required under this section shall contain an accounting of discharges into the waters of the territorial sea, the economic zone, and the ocean, and shall include:

- (a) total number of discharges;
- (b) the location, source volume and potential environmental effects of each discharge;
- (c) the date of original issuance, review and reissuance of each discharge;
- (d) the number of discharge that have been determined by the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources;
- (e) schedule for implementing this Act and achieving compliance with guidelines promulgated under this Act as expeditiously as practicable, and an estimate of the resource required to meet such schedules; and
- (f) recommendations for any additional legislative authorities needed to achieve compliance with such guidelines.

SECTION 7. Separability Clause. - If any provision, or part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 8. Repeating Clause. - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the visions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or

amended accordingly

SECTION 9. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,