EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 15 of the 1987 Constitution states:

“SEC. 15. The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.”

Furthermore, Article II, Section 16 provides:

“SEC. 16. The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.”

Modern society’s strong and ever-increasing dependence to electronics is posing a major concern on our health and the environment. The growing number of discarded electronic devices as a result of rapid product obsolescence is an emerging concern among developing countries like the Philippines. Many people do not realize that they should not throw their devices just like that. While electronic equipment is considered safe during use, the potential for release of toxins increases during storage or disposal. Electronic equipment contains hazardous materials such as lead, beryllium, mercury, cadmium, and chromium among others that pose both an occupational and environmental health threat. Moreover, one study says that a persistent organic pollutants (POPs) known as Polybrominated diphenyl ethers (PBDE) is used as flame retardants in old electronic and electrical products, which is released through improper dismantling of E-waste can result to serious effects to thyroid, liver and kidney, and possibly even cancer.

This bill seeks to prohibit the indiscriminate disposal of electronic waste with other solid waste products. This bill espouses that no garbage or waste collecting agent shall accept any e-waste from end user in both residential and commercial establishments in their area of jurisdiction except under the system formulated and developed by DENR. Penalties shall be imposed for any violation committed thereof.

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

REP. STRIKE B. REVILLA
2nd District, Cavite
AN ACT
PROHIBITING THE INDISCRIMINATE DISPOSAL OF ELECTRONIC WASTE AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the “E-waste Disposal Act”.

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. Article II of the Philippine Constitution vests in the State the prime responsibility to protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature. Towards this end, the proper management not only of regular waste products but also of electronic waste must be fully addressed and given proper attention.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. – As used in this Act:

a. Electronic equipment or electronics – is defined as equipment which is dependent on electronic currents or electromagnetic fields in order to work properly and equipment for the generation, transfer and measurement of currents and fields.

b. Electric waste or E-waste – a term used to describe electronics that are nearing the end of their useful life and are discarded, donated, or re-cycled.

c. E-waste disposal facilities or (EDF) – facilities that accept and process e-waste from consumers and manufacturers.

SECTION 4. Prohibition. – The indiscriminate disposal of electronic waste with other solid waste products is hereby prohibited. No garbage or waste collecting agent shall accept any e-waste from end user in both residential and commercial establishments in their area of jurisdiction except under the system formulated and developed by DENR.

SECTION 5. E-waste Disposal. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in cooperation and consultation with the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) shall formulate and develop a system for the disposal of e-waste in the country.

There shall be established in every province at least one E-waste Disposal Facility (EDF). The provincial government shall consult officials of local government units (LGUs)
within its jurisdiction on where such a facility shall be located and established in order to best serve all the LGUs in the province.

SECTION 6. Penalties. — Violation of the prohibitions set forth in Section 4 hereof shall be punished with a fine of not less than ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00) for individual violators and a fine not exceeding one hundred (P100,000.00) for corporations or commercial establishments that violate the same.

SECTION 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) in cooperation and consultation with the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) and the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), shall promulgate the rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act within six (6) months from its effectivity.

SECTION 8. Appropriations. — The budgetary requirement needed for the implementation of this Act shall be charged to the budgets of provincial, city and municipal governments.

SECTION 9. Separability Clause. — If any provision of this Act shall be deemed unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

SECTION 10. Repealing Clause. — All Acts, Presidential Decrees, Executive Orders and Administrative Orders, Rules and Regulations and other such issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 11. Effectivity — This Act shall take effect 15 days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,