Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 996



Introduced by **Representative Juan Miguel F. Zubiri**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to require oil companies to install oil spill preventive and control facilities in their tankers and to undertake immediate and mandatory cleaning operations in the event of another oil spill within the country's territorial waters.

Incidents of oil spills have been prevalent in the Philippine territorial waters. Below are just some of these incidents:

On January 25, 1990, oil spilled out near the shores of Limay, Bataan where some 200,000 liters of industrial fuel oil leaked out from a sunken M/T Fernando. This incident resulted in the killing of several species of fish and crustaceans, which are the main sources of livelihood for the fishermen residing in the coastal towns of Limay, Bataan.

Nine years after on February 1999, thousands of liters of oil and gasoline also spilled out as two (2) tankers collided in the same coastal area. Bataan residents claimed that if the agencies tasked in clearing the Limay waters of oil had promptly acted by undertaking the cleaning operations, it would have lessened the number of losses on marine life in the affected areas. Marine scientists from the University of the Philippines-Marine Science Institute said that fishes caught from the affected areas could be "potentially carcinogenic." It likewise renders unsafe water supply thus posing a grave danger on the people's lives.

In October 1998, the Sulpicio Lines-owned Princes of the Orient spilled out oil in Manila Bay. A year after in March 1999, 420,000 liters of bunker oil leaked into the breakwater of Manila Bay. Oil also spilled from the sinking of the Sea Brothers tanker while in collision with Petron tanker.

In August 1999, another oil tanker M/T Maryann sunk and spilled oil over a wide coastal area of Talaga Beach somewhere in Luzon Sea at the height of a storm.

Aside from the foregoing, a Singapore-registered Schedar ship, one of the first 10 out of 38 ships contracted to bring 70,000 tons of coal to the Sual Power Plant in Pangasinan spilled oil in Bolinao coastal area on January 22, 2000 as a result of the damage in the hull of said ship. The ship caused pollution which badly affected fishing villages, killing stocks worth millions of pesos as reported by the Philippine Coast Guard.

Oil spills have caused extreme damage to our marine resources. If this is to continue, soon enough, the Philippine coastal resources will be greatly decimated and soon just be a part of history. Our efforts to preserve marine life and provide a healthy environment to the coming generation is thus wasted.

Thus urgent approval of these bill is earnestly sought.

JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI
Representative
3rd District, Bukidnon

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AN ACT
REQUIRING OIL COMPANIES TO INSTALL OIL SPILLAGE PREVENTIVE AND CONTROL MECHANISM IN THEIR TANKERS AND TO UNDERTAKE IMMEDIATE CLEANING OPERATIONS IN THE EVENT OF OIL SPILLS WITHIN THE COUNTRY'S TERRITORIAL WATERS, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF.

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

SECTION 1. Oil companies are hereby required to install oil spillage preventive and control mechanism in their tankers and to undergo immediate cleaning operations in the event of oil spill within the country's territorial waters.

SEC.2. For the purpose of this Act, oil companies shall be required to set aside at least one hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) each to be utilized exclusively for cleaning operations in case of oil spill within the country's territorial waters.

SEC. 3. Any oil company which fail to install oil spill preventive and control mechanism on its tankers, in violation of this Act shall be punished by imprisonment of not less than two (2) years but not more than five (5) years to be suffered by its responsible officers or a fine of not less than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00) but not less than Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (500,000.00) or both fine and imprisonment, at the discretion of the Court without prejudice to other civil liability arising therefrom.

SEC. 4. The Department of Transportation and Communications, in coordination with the Philippine Port Authority, the Philippine Coast Guard, the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and the Maritime Industry Authority shall promulgate the rules and regulations for the implementation of this Act.

SEC. 5. All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or any part thereof inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SEC. 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved.