



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

Thirteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4697



Introduced by Honorable Remedios "Matin" L. Petilla

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 9, Article XVI (General Provisions) of the 1987 Constitution states:

"SEC. 9. The State shall protect consumers from trade malpractices and from substandard or hazardous products."

Liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) plays a vital role in our everyday lives. LPG is used as fuel for domestic, industrial, horticultural, agricultural, cooking, heating and drying processes. It can also be used as an automotive fuel or as a propellant for aerosols, in addition to providing lights through the use of pressure lanterns.

The compression of hydrocarbons known as propane and butane easily liquefy gas to be stored in pressure containers. These properties make the fuel highly portable and readily transportable in steel cylinder tanks to end-users and consumers. In the daily usage of LPGs, consumers often overlook the fact that contents of LPG cylinders vary, thus, making it difficult for consumers to determine whether they are getting their money's worth for every LPG cylinder tank they buy.

There are various ways to check how much LPG is left in the cylinder. One of the more convenient way is to monitor the weight of the LPG

remaining in the cylinder through the use of a meter reader or a fuel gauge installed on a LPG cylinder tank.

This bill therefore, seeks to require all persons and entities engaged in the manufacture, sale and distribution of LPG to install a standard meter gauge for every LPG cylinder tank. The meter gauge shall serve as an indicator of the amount of LPG contained within the cylinder. The proposed measure shall protect the consumers from trade malpractice such as shortselling and underfilling of LPG cylinder tanks.

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


REMEDIOS L. PETILLA




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AN ACT
REQUIRING MANUFACTURERS OF LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM
GAS (LPG) TO INSTALL STANDARD METER GAUGE ON EVERY
LIQUEFIED PETROLEUM GAS CYLINDER TANK AND
PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the
“Liquefied Petroleum Gas Standard Meter Gauge Act.”

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy* – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect consumers from shortselling or underfilling of liquefied petroleum gas (LPG) dispensed at the outlets, as well as inaccurate tare weight markings on the cylinders. Towards this end, the State requires persons and entities engaged in the manufacture, sale and distribution of

LPG to install standard meter gauge on all LPG cylinders to assure the end-users and consumers of a fair and equitable transaction.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall mean:

- a) Liquefied Petroleum Gas (LPG) – refers to a gas liquefied by compression consisting of hydrocarbons predominantly propane (C_3H_8), butane (C_4H_{10}) or their mixture;
- b) Marketer – refers to one that is engaged in the manufacture, sale or distribution of petroleum products including LPG;
- c) Meter Gauge – refers to a fuel gauge which gives an indication of the amount of LPG in the tank;
- d) Steel Cylinder Tank – refers to a container fabricated from prescribed steel plates consisting of a cylindrical shell and two forged ends or pressed ends, which are welded on to the shell, or two drawn halves circumferentially welded together.

SEC. 4. *Coverage* – This Act shall apply to all persons or entities engaged in the manufacture, sale and distribution of LPG to end-users and other consumers.

SEC. 5 *Installation of Standard Meter Gauge.* – All marketers engaged in the manufacture, sale and distribution of LPG are hereby

required to install a standard meter gauge on every LPG steel cylinder tank before it shall be subject for sale or distribution to end-users and other consumers. The meter gauge shall be in accordance with the standard size and design to be set in the implementing rules and regulations.

SEC. 6. *Penalties.* – Any person, natural or juridical, who shall manufacture, sell or distribute LPG without the required meter gauge shall be liable to pay a fine of not less than One Thousand (P1,000.00) pesos but not more than Fifty Thousand (P50,000.00) pesos or imprisonment for a period of not less than one (1) month but not more than one (1) year or both at the discretion of the court. The penalties shall be without prejudice to the cancellation of the license to operate and seizure of equipment, tools and instruments of the LPG manufacturing entity.

SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Secretary of Trade and Industry, in consultation with the Bureau of Product Standards and the Energy Regulatory Board, shall issue such rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 8. *Separability Clause.* – If any part or provisions of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, other parts or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue in full force and effect.

SEC. 9. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, decree, rules and regulations, executive orders or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,