

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Thirteenth Congress
Third Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 5847

Introduced by Rep. Janette L. Garin

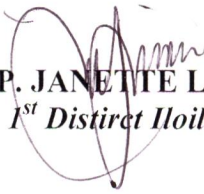
EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to provide certain measures to ensure public safety at all times by defining responsibilities and accountabilities of billboard owners and appropriate government agencies.

The issue over giant billboards is definitely not new. There have been strong public clamor in the past over the mushrooming construction of these accident-prone structures, but it took the powerful storm Milenyo to make the proper authorities act accordingly.

That forty (40) giant billboards fell, killing at least one person, injuring several others and destroying properties in considerably great amount, indicates a very serious flaw in our laws and its implementation. While initial steps have been undertaken by executive agencies over the matter, it is incumbent for Congress not only to review existing laws but supplement such with legal measures that would put public safety above profit. While indeed a great number of workers and wage earners depend on this industry, not to mention the revenues that the national and local governments may derive from it, not a single life and loss of property is to be sacrificed because of gross negligence.

The immediate approval of this bill is earnestly requested.


REP. JANETTE L. GARIN
1st District Iloilo

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

 Thirteenth Congress
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5847

Introduced by Rep. Janette L. Garin

AN ACT
PROVIDING CERTAIN MEASURES TO ENSURE PUBLIC SAFETY AT ALL
TIMES BY DEFINING RESPONSIBILITIES AND ACCOUNTABILITIES OF
BILLBOARD OWNERS AND APPROPRIATE GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

SECTION 1. *Inventory of Billboards.* – There shall be a central inventory of all billboards in the country to be maintained and regularly updated by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH). All local government units at the city and municipal levels and the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) shall likewise keep an inventory of billboards in their respective jurisdiction and submit the same to the DPWH.

All building or lot owners where the billboards are constructed shall also report to the appropriate government agencies of the construction of billboards in their properties.

The inventory shall include, among others, that such billboards are safe and that they conform to the standards prescribe by law as certified by the agencies concerned.

Within 45 days upon the approval of this Act, the concerned agencies shall accomplish the inventory of billboards and update it accordingly as may be provided by the rules and regulations within 45 days upon promulgation thereof.

SEC. 2. *Yearly Inspection and Report.* – The DPWH, city and municipal local governments shall conduct a yearly inspection of the billboards within their respective jurisdiction and issue a certification as to their safety and state. A report shall be submitted to the local chief executives concerned and the Secretary of the DPWH for assessment or evaluation and proper action as stated herein and in accordance with existing laws.

The necessary and reasonable cost for the inspections shall be charged against the billboard owners.

SEC. 3. *Notice to Billboard Owners and Safety Compliance.* – Billboard owners shall be notified by the government agencies concerned as to the results of the inspection and the necessary action that must be taken. The billboard owners must comply with the safety requirements based on the recommendations within a reasonable period as may be determined by the rules and regulations to be promulgated hereinafter.

SEC. 4. *Dismantling of Billboards.* – The DPWH, city and municipal local governments and MMDA shall automatically dismantle any billboard under the following conditions:

- a. Those without a permit to construct;
- b. Those illegally constructed in violation of safety standards and other construction requirements specified by law; and,
- c. Those which pose immediate danger to public safety and property.

The concerned government agencies shall also dismantle billboards, after due notice and hearing, that are no longer safe, already old or dilapidated.

The billboard owners shall cause or shoulder the cost of the dismantling of billboards.

SEC. 5. *Payment for Damage to Property and Injury to Any Persons.* – Billboard owners shall pay for any damage to property and injury to any person caused by fallen or destroyed billboards. This is without prejudice to any civil, or criminal liabilities that may be filed against them.

SEC. 6. *Penalties.*– Any person who is found guilty for gross negligence in the performance of his duties under this Act shall be imprisoned for not less than one year (1) year but not more than three (3) years. If he is a government employee, he shall summarily be dismissed from service.

SEC. 7. *Rules and Regulations.*– The DPWH, in coordination with the MMDA and in consultation with some local government units, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the proper implementation of this Act within 45 days upon its approval.

SEC. 8. *Effectivity.*– This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.