

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

H. B. No. 496

Introduced by HONORABLE JUAN EDGARDO "SONNY" M. ANGARA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This Act shall be known as "The Plastic Bag Recycling Act of 2010" which seeks to reduce or minimize the use of plastic bags.

Plastic bags are easily carried by wind, escaping from landfills and garbage bins. Plastic carryout bags and film plastic are not biodegradable. These bags break down into smaller toxic bits that contaminate soil and waterways and enter into the food web when animals accidentally ingest those materials, and that these pieces can last for more than 1,000 years.

What's wrong with plastic bags? Plastic bags are seen as a symbol of wasteful society as they are a form of packaging that is often not essential. As a single use disposable form of packaging, plastic bags are typically used for a short period of time but take hundreds of years to break down in landfill. Plastic bags are extremely visible and unsightly component of litter.

Salient provisions of this bill requires that retailers establish an at-store recycling program and to offer reusable bags (such as canvas or cloth).

It is about time that we reduce the use plastic bags and encourage the use of reusable bags for the benefit of our environment.

The proposed recycling program favors programs that maximize material reuse and recycling and programs that use energy efficient recycling processes.

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


JUAN EDGARDO "SONNY" M. ANGARA
Representative
Lone District, Province of Aurora

Introduced by Honorable JUAN EDGARDO "SONNY" M. ANGARA

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE CREATION OF "THE PLASTIC BAG RECYCLING
ACT OF 2010" AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as "*The Plastic Bag Recycling Act of 2010.*"

SEC. 2. State Policy. It is the policy of the State to protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.

SEC. 3. Purpose. To encourage the use of reusable bags by consumers and retailers and to reduce the consumption of single-use bags, and to require an at-store recycling program for plastic bags.

SEC. 4. Objective. To determine and implement programs that maximize material reuse and recycling and programs that use energy efficient recycling process.

SEC. 5. Coverage. A retail establishment that provides plastic carryout bags to its customers as a result of the sale of consumer goods.

SEC. 6. At-Store Recycling Program. The operator of the store shall establish an at-store recycling program pursuant to the provisions of this Act that provides an opportunity for the public to return to the store plastic carryout bags from retail store or any other retail source.

SEC. 7. Penalties. Any operator who violates any provision of this Act shall be punished by a fine not to exceed P50,000.00 for the first offense; by a fine not to exceed P100,000.00 for the second offense and by a fine not to exceed P150,000.00 for the third and each subsequent offense committed in any twelve-month period. Each day that an operator fails to comply with this Act shall constitute a separate and distinct violation.

SEC. 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) together with the stakeholders and other related government

agencies and entities shall promulgate the rules and regulations as it deems necessary and appropriate for the implementation and enforcement of any provisions of this Act.

SEC. 9. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,