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Introduced by Honorable Godofredo V. Arquiza

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EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to create "Clean Public Toilets Act for 2010".

Section 9, Article II of the 1987 Constitution states:

"The State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all."

The State recognizes the right of the people to a clean environment and an improved quality of life.

Public toilets are usually found in shopping malls, department stores, supermarkets, book stores, shops, parks, cinemas, and in all but the most rural areas. Some older public toilets are no longer in style. Beginning in the 1990s, there has been a movement to make public toilets cleaner and more hospitable than they had been in the past.

However, many public toilets still do not provide any soap and water for washing hands, or paper towels or tissue paper for drying hands. Some public toilets are fitted with hand dryers to reduce the volume of waste generated from paper towels. Hand dryers are sometimes installed with motion-sensors as an additional resource saving measure. Most do not have deodorants or air fresheners that could add a pleasant scent to the area.

Being clean is very important, and the word "clean" can be used to describe beauty, purity or orderly."

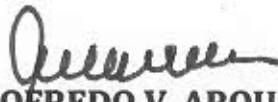
Foreigners are accustomed to clean public toilets where liquid soap and tissue papers are aplenty. Public restrooms are the most important

improvement that could promote tourism. It is the right of the people to have accessible and clean public toilets, wherever they live, work or visit.

It is about time that Local Government Units develop a public toilet strategy within their area, to ensure that clean toilets are available to the public. While some business establishments provide clean, hygienic and safe toilets many have failed to provide adequate facilities and have closed public toilets leaving the public with 'nowhere to go'.

The increasing numbers of visitors in this country can enjoy the availability of public toilets when and where they are needed. It is in this regard that a Clean Toilet Act is necessary. This Act offers hope to all who need to use public toilets - males and females, families with babies and young children and those with physical or mental disabilities that need accessible toilets with all of the facilities that they require.

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

  
**GODOFREDO V. ARQUIZA**  
Senior Citizen Party List

Fourteenth Congress  
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2302

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Introduced by Honorable Godofredo V. Arquiza

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AN ACT CREATING  
CLEAN PUBLIC TOILETS FOR 2010

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

**Section 1. Short Title.** – This Act shall be known as the “An Act Creating Clean Public Toilets for 2010 .”

**Section 2. Declaration of Policy.** – Section 9, Article II of the 1987 Constitution states:

“The State shall promote a just and dynamic social order that will ensure the prosperity and independence of the nation and free the people from poverty through policies that provide adequate social services, promote full employment, a rising standard of living, and an improved quality of life for all.”

Consonant with these constitutional principles the following are the declared policies of this Act:

- (a) To recognize the right of the people to a clean and complete public toilet;
- (b) To recognize the vital role of the Local Government in the welfare of the people and to actively seek their partnership;

In accordance with these policies, this Act aims to:

- (1) adopt stricter measures to keep public toilets clean and complete with basic amenities;

(2) punish those business establishments that fail to abide by this Act; and

(3) punish those people who steal and abuse the basic amenities provided by business establishments.

**Section 3. *Definition of Terms.*** – For purposes of this Act, these terms are defined as follows:

(a) "Toilet" – lavatory, bathroom or restroom or a room equipped with a wash bowl, water closet, etc;

(b) "Business establishment" – a commercial or industrial establishment;

(c) "Local Government unit " shall mean - as defined in the Local Government Code, as amended; and

**Section 4. *Duty of every Business Establishment.*** – Every business establishment shall be required to provide and maintain clean public toilets by providing efficient janitorial services, adequate tissue paper or paper towels and sufficient liquid soap and water which would be available for consumption to the general public at all times.

**Section 5. *Acts Punishable.*** Every business establishment who shall fail to provide a clean public toilet and the basic amenities, such as the tissue paper or paper towel and liquid soap and water as required under Section 4 hereof shall pay a **fine of P3,000.00** for the **first violation** and **P6,000.00** for the **second violation** hereof and shall be **SUSPENDED** from operating its business for a period of three (3) months on its **third violation**.

On the other hand, any person who shall be found stealing the amenities provided in public toilets shall be penalized to pay a **fine of P1,000.00** for the first violation and **P2,000.00** for the second violation.

**Section 6. *Government Assistance.*** – The Government shall provide the following:

The Local Government Units (LGUs) shall institute a program in pursuance of the objectives of this Act.

The Local Government Units shall have the following functions:

- (a) To plan, implement and monitor yearly programs in pursuance of the objectives of this Act;
- (b) To maintain and regularly update, on a quarterly basis, the business establishments who have violated this Act and make a report thereon.

Section 7. ***Municipal/ City Responsibility.*** – It shall be the responsibility of the Municipal/City, through the Mayor to prominently display posters, stickers, and other notices that will generate public awareness of the rights and privileges of the citizens, to ensure that the provisions of this Act are implemented to its fullest.

Section. 8. ***Partnership of the National and Local Government Units.*** – The national government and local government units shall undertake to ensure the implementation of this Act in their respective territorial jurisdictions.

Section 9. ***Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The Department of Interior and Local Government, within ninety (90) days from the approval of this Act, shall promulgate the implementing, rules and regulations for the effective implementation of the provisions of this Act.

Section. 10. ***Appropriation.*** – The necessary appropriation for the operation of this Act shall be appropriated and approved by the local government units concerned. The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act upon its effectivity shall be charged out of the funds of the Office of the President. Thereafter, any such sum as shall be needed for the regular implementation of this Act shall be included in subsequent General Appropriations Act following its enactment into law.

Section 11. ***Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect within fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

  
GODOFREDO V. ARQUIZA  
Senior Citizen Party List