

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

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **3539**

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INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVE ANGELO B. PALMONES

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**AN ACT TO PROHIBIT THE POSTING OF BILLBOARDS AND  
ADVERTISEMENTS ON TREES AND SIMILAR PLANTS ALONG  
HIGHWAYS AND PUBLIC PLACES AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Trees and similar plants are planted along highways, roads and streets and also in public places such as parks to improve the landscape in addition to providing ecosystems services such as reducing pollution by absorbing carbon dioxide and emitting oxygen, reducing temperature, preventing soil erosion, reducing or preventing the impacts of strong winds. Especially in public places such as parks they provide areas for relaxation, leisure and for rest and contemplation, areas where one can be by oneself.

Especially along highways billboards and advertisements are posted on trees and similar plants. These posting not only impair the landscape, they also damage the trees. Depending upon the manner of posting the bark of trees is damaged and the wounds become avenues for the entry of fungi and other infections that could lead to the decay and death of the trees.

These acts are predominant during election periods where all types of materials are attached to trees and other places. Since trees along highways are very visible they are favorite places for posting of advertisements. These acts should be prevented and perpetrators should be made accountable for their actions, thus this bill.

  
**ANGELO B. PALMONES**

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

**Section 1. Title** - This Act shall be known as the “No Billboards and Advertisements on Trees and Similar Plants on Highways and Public Places of 2010”

**Section 2. Declaration of Policy** - It is the policy of the State, consistent with the Constitution, to protect and advance the right of the people to a balance and healthful ecosystem in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature. Toward this end, the State shall protect, conserve, and develop sufficient trees and similar plants in public places and urban parks. Furthermore, the State shall promote to the highest degree possible the involvement of all sectors of society in the protection and prevention of damage of these trees in order to attain the benefits they provide such as reducing pollution and carbon dioxide in the air and in the amelioration of temperature as well as provide areas for leisure, rest and contemplation.

**Section 3. Objectives** – It is the objective of this Act to prevent the damage of trees and similar plants planted along highways and in public places from the posting of bills and advertisements.

**Section 4. Definition of Terms** – As used in this Act, the following terms shall have the corresponding meanings:

- a. Billboards and advertisements – any material made of paper, wood, metal, concrete or of similar nature
- b. Posting – attaching billboards and advertising materials on trees on highways and public places with the use of nails, bolts, spikes, pastes, strings or wires or similar means
- c. Highways – these include road systems of national, provincial, city/municipal and barangay in nature
- d. Public places – these include public parks and similar places

**Section 5. Prohibition of Posting of Bills and Advertisements on Trees -** The posting of bills and advertisements on trees and similar plants found along national highways, provincial and city/municipal roads and other streets and also those found in public places such as national, provincial, city/municipal parks is hereby prohibited.

**Section 6. Punishment for Posting Bills and Advertisements on Trees along Highways and Public Places –** The posting of bills and advertisements on trees and similar plants along highways and public places is punishable as follows:

- a. First offense – A fine of Two Thousand Pesos (P2,000) for each single act: if posting is on a single tree – two thousand pesos; if on two trees – four thousand pesos, and so on;
- b. Second offense – The fine for the second offense is double the fine on the first offense.
- c. Third offense – The punishment for the third offense is triple the fine on the first offense or imprisonment for a minimum of six months and a maximum of 12 months or both
- d. Succeeding offense – The punishment for the fourth and succeeding offense is double the previous fine or imprisonment.

**Section 7. Duties of the Public –** To ensure the protection of trees and similar plants planted on highways and public places the public is enjoined to report to the police who in turn will report it to the municipal/city or provincial Environment and Natural Resources Office (ENRO) in provinces and city/municipalities where they exists or to the nearest office of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR).

**Section 8. Payment and use of fines –** The fines are payable to the city/municipalities where the offense took place. The income derived from the said fines will accrue to the city/municipality where the offense occurred, Provided that the provincial government shall have a share of 30 percent of the income, Provided further that all the income shall accrue to chartered cities.

**Section 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations –** The DENR and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) shall formulate the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) of this Act within 180 days from its approval.

**Section 10. Separability Clause –** If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder of the Act shall not be affected by such declaration.

**Section 11. Repealing Clause –** All laws, decrees, letter of instruction, executive orders, rules and regulations and other issuances or parts thereof, in conflict or inconsistent with any provision of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**Section 12. Effectivity Clause –** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

**Approved**