

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Batasan Hills, Quezon City

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **4346**

Introduced by: Representative AUGUSTO Boboy SYJUCO, Ph.D.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Public office is public service. Many have used the phrase but few have really followed the phrase to its simplest form. As representative of the people, it is our duty to enact laws simple as it may seem but would greatly affect the everyday lives of our constituents.

For the past few years many deaths have been caused by fire. Many of those instances were investigated and have been reported to be caused by faulty electrical wirings. It is therefore imperative that safety standards even simple precautions should be taken to essentially free every Filipinos from hazard.

Unknown to many, the light switch with its constant flipping from on to off may cause fire. There are also countless cases where people get burned or shocked while flipping the switch. Bathrooms are unique in the home when it comes to electrical service. By nature, bathrooms and comfort rooms are damp environments and water and electricity make poor bedfellows. To prevent these hazardous instances, simple precaution of relocating switches particularly in bathrooms or comfort rooms are essential.

This proposed bill aims to improve existing regulations and to keep up with new technology and to provide added protection to our constituents.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is urgently recommended.


AUGUSTO BOBOY SYJUCO, Ph.D.

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AN ACT MANDATING THE INSTALLATION OF LIGHT SWITCHES IN BATHROOMS AND COMFORT ROOMS OUTSIDE OF THE SAID ROOMS AND SHALL BE CONVENIENTLY LOCATED IN AN AREA ACCESSIBLE TO THE USER AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREOF.

Section 1: *Declaration of Policy*- It is hereby declared the principle of the State that the practical safeguarding of persons and buildings and their contents from hazards arising from the use of electricity is a necessity in a developing country.

Section 2: *Mandate*- Switches of lights used to illuminate bathrooms or comfort rooms are required to be installed outside the bathroom or comfort room and must be located along an accessible path of travel going to the said room. Provided, that:

- a) In cases of buildings or structures with comfort rooms that are open to the public, the light switch shall be installed outside the said room but will be placed in a strategic area, the access of which will only be available to employees responsible for the maintenance of the said comfort room.
- b) In cases of hotels, motels, apartelles and similar types of business the switches of light for the bathrooms in each of their rooms shall be conveniently located just outside the door of the said room. However the regulation stated in Section 2 paragraph (a) shall apply to their comfort rooms available to the public.
- c) For old and existing buildings and structures including those used for dwelling, alterations on their comfort room or bathroom light switches shall be made within six months of the effectivity of this act.

Section 3: *Penalty*- Any person found guilty in violation of this Act shall be penalized and fined under the following circumstances:

- a) If the violation is with regards to structures or buildings mainly used for dwelling, fine of five thousand pesos (Php 5,000) on the first offense and a fine of ten thousand pesos (Php10,000) for the second offense and for the third offense, imprisonment of not less than ten (10) days but not more than one (1) month imprisonment on the third offense plus a fine of twenty thousand pesos (Php20,000).
- b) If the violation is made by a corporation managing a building or structure, the penalty mentioned in the preceeding paragraph shall be imposed to the officer who is responsible for the approval and supervision of the maintenance of the electrical system of the said structure or building.

Section 3. *Repeal*- All laws, ordinances, rules, regulations and other issuances or parts thereof contrary to or inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 4. ~~Effectivity~~ This Act shall take effect within fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least three (3) newspapers of national circulation.

Adopted,