

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

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4429

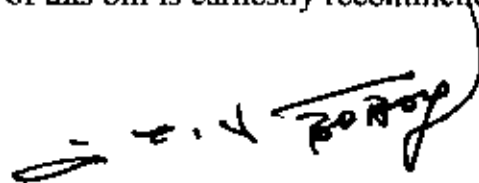
Introduced by: **Representative AUGUSTO Boboy SYJUCO, Ph.D.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Geology- related disasters such as earthquakes, tsunamis and volcanic eruptions, are generally among the most destructive in terms of human lives lost and property damaged. Though it is hard to predict when earthquake will occur, we can mitigate the loss caused, by being prepared. On July 16, 1990, the strongest and most destructive earthquake was experienced in Central Luzon and the tremor had a magnitude of 7.7 on the Richter scale. The recent earthquake in Japan was said to be of Magnitude 9 on the Richter scale. The incident in Japan has caused many scientist to warn countries particularly those within the Pacific Ring of Fire or the area where large numbers of earthquakes and volcanic eruptions occur in the basin of the Pacific Ocean, like the Philippines, to be vigilant in implementing Disaster Management policies.

It is very alarming that in the Philippines, as admitted by the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council Executive Officer Benito Ramos in his interview with the Philippine Star on March 13, 2011, the structures are designed to withstand a seven (7) magnitude earthquake only. The Philippines shares with several Asian countries the unwelcome distinction of being one of the World's most disaster prone countries. It is therefore important that with our Disaster Risk Management policies, we do not settle for substandard measures but instead we should implement policies and laws that will provide for the outmost protection for our constituents. The immediate passage of this proposed measure is intended to change the substandard measures currently implemented in our country, to a policy that will ensure the protection of our fellow Filipinos.

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



AUGUSTO BOBOY SYJUCO, Ph.D.

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

AN ACT REQUIRING ALL BUILDINGS AND STRUCTURES, EXISTING AND NEW, IN THEIR CONSTRUCTION MUST BE MAGNITUDE 9 EARTHQUAKE PROOF AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION HEREOF.

Section 1. *TITLE*- This act shall be known as the *EARTHQUAKE PREPAREDNESS ACT OF 2011*.

Section 2. *DECLARATION OF POLICY*- It shall be the policy of the State to safeguard life, health property and public welfare and to this end shall make it the purpose of this Act to require buildings and structures, existing and new, to be able to withstand up to magnitude 9 earthquake.

Section 3. *SCOPE*- This act shall apply to the construction of buildings and structures existing and new, whether used for commercial or residential purposes and with the height of more than thirty meters and including changes or repairs made thereto.

Section 4. *GENERAL REQUIREMENTS*:

- a.) New buildings or structures as well as accessory facilities thereto shall in their design, materials and construction must be able to withstand magnitude 9 Earthquake.
- b.) Buildings or structures as well as its accessory facilities constructed before the approval of this Act shall within 6 months make the necessary repairs or alterations to comply with the requirement set forth in paragraph a.
- c.) The requirement under paragraph (a) shall also be applicable to any alteration, repair or addition made to any structure or buildings.
- d.) No building or structure as well as its accessory facilities may be constructed nor there be alteration, addition or repair made to a building or structure without securing certification from building officials that the proposed construction, alteration, repair or addition will be compliant

- e.) Certificate of Compliance for every building or structures as well as its accessory facilities are renewable annually.

Section 4. ADMINISTRATION AND ENFORCEMENT- The administration and enforcement of the provisions of this Act including the filing of the necessary complaints with the appropriate Court is hereby vested in the Secretary of the Department of Public Works and Highways. The Secretary shall be responsible for the formulation of policies, plans, standards and guidelines to further make this Act effective.

Section 5. PENALTIES- Any person, firm or corporation who shall violate any of the provisions of this Act shall upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not less than twenty thousand pesos but not more than five hundred thousand pesos or imprisonment of not less than one month but not more than six months or both fine and imprisonment: Provided, that in the case of corporation, partnership or association, the penalty shall be imposed upon its officials responsible for such violation.

Section 6. REPEALING CLAUSE – All laws, decrees, executive orders, issuances, rules or regulations or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby deemed repealed, amended or modified according

Section 7. SEPARABILITY CLAUSE – If any provision or part of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 8. EFFECTIVITY – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,