

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)

HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES
House Bill No. 5133

Introduced by: MA. THERESA B. BONOAN-DAVID
4th District, City of Manila

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 2, Section 16 provides that:

"The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature."

Recycling is a program which has become more and more indispensable to society as a possible solution to various environmental problems. The awareness and need for this possible solution to save natural resources to total destruction may be imparted to the younger generations by requiring educational institutions to recycle and to use recycled paper considering that it is one of the institutions which uses large amounts of paper. In this way, they could take the lead in recycling and other environmentally-sound practices as part of its commitment to a balanced and healthful ecology and achieving growth through sustainable development.

The urgent need to accelerate the country's development is not a justification to neglect the need to conserve the natural resources of our nation. It is true that the natural resources of the Philippines are abundant. However, to totally disregard conservation at this time is detrimental, because every careless use of our resources reduces the net benefit to the people and the environment.

The recycling and the utilization of recycled materials complement efficient utilization and conservation of our natural resources. This bill seeks to require education institutions to recycle and to use recycled paper.

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


MA. THERESA BONOAN-DAVID
4th District, City of Manila

HOUSE of REPRESENTATIVES
House Bill No. 5133

Introduced by: MA. THERESA B. BONOAN-DAVID
4th District, City of Manila

**AN ACT REQUIRING THE RECYCLING AND THE UTILIZATION OF
RECYCLED MATERIALS BY EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS**

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. This Act shall be known as the "Recycle Waste Act."

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. It is a declared policy of the State to conserve natural resources by recycling paper and other waste materials.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. For purposes of this Act, the terms:

- (a) "Schools" mean all schools, whether public or private, colleges, universities, and other learning and educational institutions, including all state colleges and universities.
- (b) "Department" refers to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources;
- (c) "Secretary" refers to the Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

SECTION 4. Requirement for the use of Recycled Paper. Except as provided for in the succeeding section, all schools shall use paper and other materials containing at least fifteen percent (15%) recycled material, in all their projects, activities, and ventures.

SECTION 5. Exceptions. The failure of the schools to comply with the requirement of this Act shall not be considered a violation of this Act, if:

- (A) the recycled materials are not reasonably available within a reasonable period of time; or

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(B) the recycled materials are available only at an unreasonable price.

Provided further that, those schools, which failed to comply with the requirement set forth in Section 4 of this Act, shall notify the Department, specifying the reason(s) for their failure to do so.

The Secretary shall publish a list of schools which failed to comply with the requirements of this Act.

SECTION 6. Mandatory Recycling of Paper and Other Materials. It shall be mandatory for all schools to recycle paper and other materials, or to make paper and other wastes available for recycling.

SECTION 7. Technical Assistance. For purposes of assisting the schools in complying with the provisions of this Act, the Department shall provide technical assistance and guidance to schools on recycling methods and opportunities.

SECTION 8. Inclusion in the Curriculum. The Department of Education, Culture and Sports (DECS), and the Commission on Higher Education (CHED), in coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, shall include a subject in the curriculum of schools which tackles the advantages of recycling and the ways and means to recycle all kinds of wastes.

In case the inclusion of the subject in the curriculum is not feasible, the Department of Education, Culture and Sports, and the Commission on Higher Education, may recommend the option to include the matter of recycling of wastes, in any existing and related subject.

SECTION 9. Recycling Program. The Department, within two (2) years after the effectivity of this Act, shall develop and implement a comprehensive multi-material recycling program. The recycling program shall include but is not limited to the following:

- a) The determination and separation of recyclable materials from other wastes. The type of recyclable material shall include metal cans, glass bottles and jars, paper, used tires, and plastic material;
- b) The establishment of proven approaches in separation and collection of recyclable materials;
- c) The establishment of local or regional drop-off centers for recyclable materials;
- d) The development of campaign which will encourage the protection of the environment and the natural resource.

SECTION 10. Information Campaign. The Department shall establish a comprehensive and sustained public information and education program concerning recycling methods and opportunities.

SECTION 11. Rules and Regulations. The Department, in coordination with the Department of Education, Culture and Sports, and the Commission on Higher Education, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulation to carry out the purpose of this Act within six (6) months after its effectivity.

SECTION 12. Penalty. Any violation of this Act shall be punished with a fine of not less than Php50,000.00 or imprisonment of one (1) year, or both, at the discretion of the court. If the offense is committed by a corporation, trust, firm, partnership or association or other entity, the penalty shall be imposed upon the guilty officer or officers of such corporation, trust, firm, partnership or association or entity.

SECTION 13. Appropriation. To carry out the provisions of this Act, such sum as may be necessary is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National Treasury. Thereafter, the sum necessary for the continuous operation of the programs shall be included in the annual appropriation of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

SECTION 14. Repealing Clause. - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 15. Separability Clause. - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid.

SECTION 16. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general.

Approved.