

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

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 548



Introduced by **HONORABLE LANI MERCADO-REVILLA**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The urgent need to accelerate the country's development cannot justify to neglect the wanton destruction of the natural resources of our nation. Verily, the natural resources of the Philippines are abundant. However, to totally disregard conservation at this time is detrimental to the country, 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 educational institutions to recycle and to use recycled paper.

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


REP. LANI MERCADO-REVILLA
2nd District, Cavite

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

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. This Act shall be known as the “Recycle *Waste Act of 2013.*”

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 a 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
- 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 and the Commission on Higher Education, 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 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 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 Ten thousand Pesos (P10,000.00) 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. Separability Clause. If any provision, or part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 15. Repealing Clause. Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order,

letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SECTION 16. Effectivity Clause. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,