

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1708



Introduced by the Honorable Victoria G. Noel

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Water is an invaluable resource and its availability and affordability must be a continuing commitment of the government.

PD 1067 otherwise known as the "Water Code of the Philippines" recognizes that water is vital to national development. According to the law "it has become increasingly necessary for government to intervene actively in improving the management of water resources."

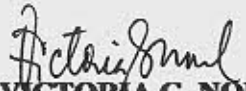
Pertinently, the "Provincial Water Utilities Act of 1973" (PD 198) which was issued three (3) years prior to the issuance of PD 1067 authorizes the formation and operation of independent and locally controlled public water districts that enjoy technical and funding support from the national government.

Even while communities hosting the water source give all the consumers in their respective district equal rights to the water system, they do not enjoy any special incentive as host. Accordingly, as most host communities do not enjoy adequate water supply even for their own domestic use, it is fair that the government could grant them a special privilege.

It is the intent of this measure to provide a reduction in the water rates and charges applicable to the consumers of the barangays hosting the water source.

This proposed measure was filed by the Honorable Florencio G. Noel in the 15th Congress. The bill however did not pass into law due to lack of material time.

The approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


VICTORIA G. NOEL

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AN ACT
REDUCING THE WATER RATES AND CHARGES FOR WATER USERS IN
THE BARANGAY/S HOSTING THE WATER SOURCE WITHIN A WATER
DISTRICT THEREBY AMENDING PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 198 AS
AMENDED AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1. Section 37, Chapter IX, Title II of the Presidential Decree No. 198 as amended, is hereby further amended to read as follows:

“Sec. 37. Rates and Charges-

Water- A district may sell water under its control, under schedules of rates and charges as may be determined by the Board, to any and all water users within the district [.]; PROVIDED, THAT SUCH RATES AND CHARGES APPLICABLE TO THE WATER USERS IN THE BARANGAY/S HOSTING THE WATER SOURCE SHALL BE 20% LOWER THAN THE RATES AND CHARGES APPLICABLE TO THE OTHER WATER USERS WITHIN THE DISTRICT. Said schedule may provide for differential rates for different categories of use and different quantity blocks. The district, as far as practicable, shall fix such rates and charges for water as will result in revenues which will:

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SECTION 2. this Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved.