

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1916



Introduced by Representatives
DIOSDADO MACAPAGAL ARROYO and GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, EDUCATION AND
TECHNOLOGY TRANSFER ACTIVITIES RELATED TO WATER USE
EFFICIENCY AND CONSERVATION TECHNOLOGIES AND
PRACTICES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

As more and more scientific and empirical evidence shows that climate change poses a serious threat to the world's resources, the need to take a more proactive stance to mitigate its pernicious effects becomes more imperative.

With this in mind, the proposed Bill aims to facilitate the research, development, education and technology transfer activities related to water use efficiency and conservation technologies, processes and best practices. This bill gives emphasis to our water resource which is identified as one of the critical resources affected by the global warming phenomenon.

It is in this light that the approval of this measure is earnestly requested.


DIOSDADO MACAPAGAL ARROYO
Second District, Camarines Sur


GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
Second District, Pampanga

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Water Use Efficiency and Conservation Research Act of 2013.”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State reaffirms its commitment to advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature. Towards this end, the State shall work tirelessly for the protection, conservation and sustainability of all its natural resources. As climate change and other human activities continue to threaten the State’s water resources, it shall be the policy of the State to promote water use efficiency and conservation through research, development, education and technology transfers.

SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act, the following terms shall be construed to mean as follows:

- a. “DENR” - Department of Environment and Natural Resources

- b. "DOST" - Department of Science and Technology
- c. "Grey water" - non-industrial wastewater generated from domestic processes such as dish washing, laundry and bathing
- d. "Storm water" – water from precipitation that get seeped into the ground or drained into the drain system

SECTION 4. *Research Program.* – The Department of Science and Technology (DOST), together with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources and other concerned government agencies, boards and bureaus shall establish a research and development program (hereinafter referred to as "Program") that promotes water use efficiency and conservation.

The program shall include the following areas of study:

- a. Technologies and processes that enable the collection, storage, treatment and reuse of rainwater, storm water and grey water;
- b. Water storage and distribution systems;
- c. Behavioral, social and economic barriers to achieving greater water use efficiency; and
- d. Use of watershed planning directed towards water quality, conservation and supply.

In planning and implementing the program, the agency/ies-in-charge shall consider the following:

- a. Research needs identified by water resource experts, local governments and other interested parties; and
- b. Technologies and processes likely to achieve the greatest increases in water use efficiency and conservation,

SECTION 5. *Strategic Research Plan.* – The DOST, together with the DENR and other concerned government agencies, boards and bureaus, shall coordinate the development of a strategic research plan for the Water Use Efficiency and Conservation Research and Development Program.

The plan shall:

a. Establish research goals and priorities for a water use efficiency and conservation research agenda such as developing innovative water supply-enhancing processes and technologies and improving existing processes and technologies, including wastewater treatment, desalinization and groundwater recharge and recovery schemes; and

b. Identify current research efforts on water use efficiency and conservation.

SECTION 6. *Technology Transfer.* – Technology transfer shall be facilitated under the Program. The following technology transfer activities shall be specifically undertaken:

a. Facilitate the adoption of technology and processes to promote water use efficiency and conservation;

b. Collect and disseminate information on technologies and processes to promote water use efficiency and conservation such as:

i. Incentives and impediments to development and commercialization;

ii. Best practices; and

iii. Anticipated increases in water use efficiency and conservation resulting from the implementation of specific technologies and processes.

SECTION 7. *Report.* – Not later than eighteen (18) months after the effectivity of this Act, and every two (2) years thereafter, the lead government agency shall transmit to Congress a progress report on the projects and researches conducted under the Program.

SECTION 8. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act, are hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National Treasury.

SECTION 9. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the Act or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 10. *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 11. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,