

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2202



Introduced by **Rep. Winston "Winnie" Castelo**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In Manila, there is concerted effort to ban use of plastic bags. It should be so in other cities or places.

It is so since the trash thrown into Manila Bay or the Pasig River, for that matter, is of plastic stuff or are in fact, single-use plastic shopping bags from grocery stores, convenience stores, drug stores, delicatessens or similar marketplace.

Plastics do not disintegrate and they are being dumped most everywhere especially in bays, lakes, rivers or in the open seas even. Even beaches are awash with plastic.

When found in the environment, plastic can harm wildlife, fish, and birds and could be the cause of their death. It is much of a menace in the natural world inhabited by humans as well.

Boats, ships or sea-going vessels could be potential victims of maritime disasters caused by plastic materials underneath our seas, bays, piers, harbors, or wharves and so on.

It is not as if there are no better alternatives to plastic shopping bags like bags made of paper although initially it may entail additional costs on the part of the owners of grocery stores, drug stores, convenience stores, delicatessens or similar marketplace.

This bill attaches higher premium to the environment and the lives that it can save with an environment free from plastic waste.

Henceforth, the approval of this bill is most earnestly sought.

WINSTON "WINNIE" CASTELO

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AN ACT
BANNING USE OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC SHOPPING BAGS AT GROCERY
STORES, CONVENIENCE STORES, DRUG STORES, DELICATESSENS OR
SIMILAR MARKETPLACE IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Title. – This Act shall be known as the Plastic Ban Act of 2011.

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the declared policy of the State to protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.

SEC. 3. Ban. – It is hereby banned the use of single-use plastic shopping bags at grocery stores, convenience stores, drug stores, delicatessens or similar marketplace and violations thereof shall be meted appropriate fines or punishments as a competent Court may prescribe.

SEC. 4. Appropriation. – The Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall immediately include in the agency's program the operationalization of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the General Appropriations Act on the year of its enactment and thereafter.

SEC. 5. Implementation. – The Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources shall issue rules and regulations that may be necessary to carry out the purpose of this Act.

SEC. 6. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect thirty (30) days after its publication in the Official Gazette and at least three (3) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,