

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH (16th) CONGRESS
Third Regular Session



House Bill No. 5981

Introduced by ERIC L. OLIVAREZ

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Transactions between a person and a commercial establishment happen on a day to day basis. Commodities like food items, supplies, and gadgets, and services too are being accessed by the general public through the several commercial establishments operating in the country.

When the process involves some form of payment from the private person's end, it is only proper that a record thereof is made by the establishments and a copy of the same is furnished to him or her because this is a valid proof of payment.

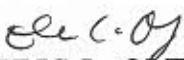
Nowadays, it has been a trend among private businesses and commercial establishments to use thermal paper in printing their receipts. However the use of thermal papers in printing receipts poses a lot of disadvantages that usually end up prejudicing the public.

One of the significant disadvantages of thermal paper is its poor durability. It is not therefore advisable to use thermal paper for documents that are supposed to last for a while and this makes for bad record-keeping. Another disadvantage of using thermal paper is that the whole document changes color when exposed to even a low level or amount of heat: it darkens to a point where nothing can be seen. Moreover, thermal papers are easily damaged by mere scratches and crumples. Any of these possibilities would either erase or obscure the writings on the receipt which would render the same unreadable, useless, invalid and unacceptable.

Receipts and other papers evidencing any form of payment made by any person to any commercial establishment or enterprise can be considered important documents which need to be preserved well to avoid hampering an otherwise smooth transaction and to avoid instances where the person will have to pay once again as a consequence of ruining his or her copy of the receipts. Hence there is an imperative need to make the receipts more durable.

To significantly reduce the risk of receipt spoilage, this bill seeks to require all commercial establishments including but not limited to restaurants, fast food chains, retailers, merchandisers and even service-oriented business and/or companies to stop using thermal paper for all the receipts they issue. Instead of using a thermal paper which is easily obscured by mere scratches or exposure even to a low level of heat, all commercial establishments will now have to print the tickets on a non-thermal paper or any kind of a more durable paper which ensures that the printings thereon cannot be easily erased or obscured by simple scratches and crumples, and can withstand reasonable amount of heat as well.

It is only for this reason that the approval of this bill is being sought.


ERIC L. OLIVAREZ

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House Bill No. **5981**

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**AN ACT REQUIRING ALL COMMERCIAL
ESTABLISHMENTS TO PRINT RECEIPTS BEING ISSUED
BY THEM ON A NON-THERMAL PAPER OR ANY KIND OF
PAPER WHICH ENSURES THAT THE PRINTINGS
THEREON CANNOT BE EASILY ERASED OR OBSCURED
BY SIMPLE SCRATCHES AND CRUMPLES, AND CAN
WITHSTAND REASONABLE HEAT, THEREBY REDUCING
THE POSSIBILITY OF RECEIPT SPOILAGE.**

Section 1. Short Title. This Act shall be known as the
Durable Receipt Paper Act of 2015.

Section 2. Coverage. This Act shall cover all kinds of receipts and/or documents evidencing payment of any kind by the public, as issued by all commercial establishments including but not limited to restaurants, fast food chains, retailers, merchandisers and even service-oriented business and/or companies.

Section 3. Definition of Terms.

Thermal paper - a special fine paper that is coated with a chemical that changes color when exposed to heat. It is used in thermal printers and particularly in inexpensive or lightweight devices such as adding machines, cash registers, credit card terminals, and lottery tickets.

Durable and heat-resistant paper - for purposes of this Act, the term heat-resistant paper pertains only to kinds of paper which do not get the printing thereon easily erasable despite being scratched, crumpled, dampened, or exposed to a reasonable amount of heat. This however does not mean that the paper itself must be totally indestructible or fire-durable.

Section 4. All receipts to be issued by commercial establishments must be printed on a non-thermal paper or any durable and heat-resistant paper. All commercial establishments including but not limited to restaurants, fast food chains, retailers, merchandisers and even service-oriented business and/or companies shall print any and all

receipts issued by their office on a non-thermal paper or any kind of durable and heat-resistant paper which ensures that the printings thereon cannot be easily erased or obscured by simple scratches and crumples, and can withstand reasonable heat.

Section 5. Period of Compliance. All commercial establishments including but not limited to restaurants, fast food chains, retailers, merchandisers and even service-oriented business and/or companies shall comply with the requirements and provisions of this Act within three (3) months from the effectivity of this Act.

Section 6. Penalty and Fines for Non-Compliance. Failure to comply with any of the provisions of this Act shall be punishable with suspension of license to operate or conduct business and/or a fine of not more than fifty thousand pesos (Php50,000.00) but not less than ten thousand pesos (Php 10,000.00) as may be determined by the Department of Trade and Industry;

Section 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations. The Department of Trade and Industry shall promulgate the Implementing Rules and Regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act. Such rules and regulations shall take effect upon their publication in three (3) newspapers of general circulation.

Section 8. Repealing Clause. – All laws, presidential decrees, letters of instructions, executive orders, rules and regulations insofar as they are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed or amended as the case may be.

Section 9. Separability Clause. – In the event that any provision of this Act or any portion thereof is declared unconstitutional by a competent court, the other provisions

shall not be affected thereby and shall remain valid and enforceable.

Section 10. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect after its complete publication in at least three (3) newspapers of general circulation.

APPROVED.