

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

16th Congress
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 6223



Introduced by Honorable Sergio A.F. Apostol

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Water is a basic commodity, a daily necessity significant to performing daily tasks, and is highly vital in securing proper sanitation and good health. Everyone should be given proper access to water in a just manner, thus, consequences due to some lapses in water system and management should not be passed on to the paying consumers.

Water companies should not heavily burden the consumers who are already saddled with other taxes by placing additional high tariffs to water bills due to Non-Revenue Water (NRW). Non-Revenue Water is defined as "the the difference between system input volume and billed authorized consumption" which is composed of apparent water losses and real water losses. (Frauendorfer, R. and R. Liemberge, 2010) The amount of NRW can be easily used as an indicator of poor utility managament which is under the control of water companies and not by the consumers. Hence, it is only right to protect water consumers from higher water bills and consequently exhort these companies to improve their facilities and further enhance their system of management, delivery, monitoring and maintenace to reduce NRW.

The objective of this bill is to guarantee that water consumers are given fair charges and secure the affordability of the aforementioned commodity.

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


HON. SERGIO A.F. APOSTOL
Representative
Second District, Leyte

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AN ACT REGULATING THE ADDITIONAL TARIFFS ON WATER BILLS DUE TO NON-REVENUE WATER

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

Section 1. Declaration of Policy.- The right to basic needs shall mean the basic consumer right which prompts the government to ensure the availability to consumers of basic and prime commodities at affordable prices and of good quality.

Section 2. Regulation of Water Tariff- Additional Tariff added to water bills due to Non-Revenue Water (NRW) should be properly regulated and should not be more than ten percent (10%) of the total percentage of NRW for each month.

Section 3. Regulatory Board- National Water Resources Board (NRWB) should regulate the additional charges of water companies on NRW to its consumers and should ensure that the augmentation of the water bill due to NRW would not go beyond ten percent (10%) of the NRW per month.

Section 4. Repealing Clause. - Any law or parts of law inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 5. Separability Clause. - If any provision of this Act is held invalid, the other provisions of this Act shall not be affected thereby and shall continue in operation.

Section 6. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,