

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

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS

_____ Regular Session

House Bill No. 6517



Introduced by: **Rep. EVELIO R. LEONARDIA**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to provide public convenience, maintain cleanliness, health and to stop the anti-social street urination.

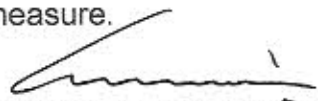
It is embodied in our Constitution that the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. Public urinals are used in several parts of the world to provide public convenience and obviate problems resulting from street urination. The street urination is disgusting habit and is a growing problem which must be given attention to promote health and sanitation.

Dr. Richard Mwondha, a urologist says it is not good to withhold urine to a point where you cannot control the urge to pass it. Holding on stretches the bladder in that, it eventually loses the ability to know when it is time to go to the toilet, due to weakening of the nerves. He explains that the longer one withholds urine, the more the bladder becomes a breeding ground for bacteria to grow which leads to infections. The infections may spread to the kidneys and cause damage to the body.

However, public urination is penalize in many areas where there is a specific law prohibiting the emptying one's bladder made in a public place. Unfortunately, it would be unfair to impose penalty upon the violators when the government also fails to provide reasonable measure in preventing their violation.

There is a need therefore for the government to combat this habit of street urination and promote sanitation. It is our responsibility to provide the people with the basic facilities to protect health and maintain cleanliness in our society. This is also an effective preventive measure to forestall greater problems that may result therefrom in the future.

The foregoing reasons warrant the approval of this measure.


REP. EVELIO R. LEONARDIA
Lone District, Bacolod City

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AN ACT CREATING PUBLIC URINALS IN THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS (LGUs) AND APPROPRIATING FUND THEREFORE

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

Section 1. *Short Title.* This Act shall be known as the "Public Urinals for Health and Sanitation Act of 2016.

Section 2. *Declaration of Policy.* It is the declared policy of the State to provide protection and promotion of the right of the people to health and to instill health consciousness among them through the practice of sanitation in accord with the right of the people as enshrined in the Constitutional right to a balance and healthful ecology in accord with rhythm and harmony of nature. Toward this end, basic facilities such as public urinals shall be provided in certain designated areas for the convenience and health of the people.

Section 3. *Definition of Terms.* For the purpose of this Act, the following shall refer to:

Public Health refers to all organized measures to prevent disease, promote health, and prolong life among the population as a whole.

Hygiene is the practice of keeping oneself and his/her surroundings clean, especially to avoid illness or the spread of preventable diseases.

Sanitation means measures necessary for improving and protecting health and well-being of the people.

Portable Toilets are structures composed of 4-wall cement slabs with roofing and doors, painted in shades of blue for male and pink for women, and have slits near the ceiling for ventilation.

Section 4. *Coverage.* The public urinals shall be established near public markets, near public establishments and areas where no public comfort rooms are provided, in public areas where there are no establishments or residence near highways on a reasonable distance. It shall be located in accessible areas for the convenience of the public and shall be available anytime.

Section 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* Secretary of Department of Health and the Secretary of DILG in consultation with the heads and leaders of

duly recognized organizations of the local government, shall promulgate the rules and regulations to implement this Act.

Section 7. *Penalty on Vandalism and other Damages.* Any person who shall deliberately cause any damage to the Portable Toilets shall be guilty of Special Case Of Malicious Mischief under Article 328 of Act No. 3815, otherwise known as the Revised Penal Code and shall receive a penalty double than that provided under the said Article.

Section 8. *Penalty on Theft.* Any person who, with intent to gain but without violence against or intimidation of persons nor force upon things, shall take the Portable Toilet from its designated place without the consent of an authorized person, shall be guilty of Qualified Theft, punished under Article 310 of Act No. 3815, otherwise known as the Revised Penal Code.

Section 6. *Budget.* The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the budget of concerned government agencies in the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law and thereafter.

Section 7. *Separability Clause.* If any part, section or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions not affected therein shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 8. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, decrees and executive orders inconsistent with this act is repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 9. *Effectivity Clause.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,