

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Seventeenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
H.B. No. 5895



Introduced by Representative H. Harry L. Roque Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Phosphorus, along with nitrogen, is an element that, when added to freshwater lakes or rivers, stimulate excessive growth of algae and vegetation. This process is called “eutrophication,” which severely damages water quality and ruin aquatic ecosystems.

In most freshwater lakes and rivers, phosphorus is the “limiting nutrient.” More phosphorus means more algae growth. Excess loading of phosphorus into streams, lakes, or rivers can cause drastic changes in water quality, including reduction in dissolved oxygen supplies, major changes in algae species and associated macro-invertebrate communities, algae blooms and associated foam and odors.

Phosphorus in dishwashing detergents is currently a significant source of water pollution. It fosters unhealthy growth of algae and can seriously reduce dissolved oxygen. Dissolved oxygen is an important component of most healthy aquatic ecosystems.

Eliminating phosphorous in dishwasher detergents is a step to preserve the natural ecosystems of our lakes and rivers. This bill regulates the sale and manufacture of cleaning agents that contain phosphorous as a measure to preserve the bionetwork of our rivers and lakes.*



H. HARRY L. ROQUE JR.

* This bill was originally filed by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago in the Sixteenth Congress, First Regular Session.

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

Seventeenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
H.B. No. **5895**

Introduced by Representative H. Harry L. Roque Jr.

1 AN ACT
2 REGULATING THE DISTRIBUTION FOR SALE OR USE OF CLEANING AGENTS
3 WHICH CONTAIN PHOSPORUS

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

4 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act may be known as the “Envi-Protection Cleaning
5 Agents Act”.

6 SECTION 2. *Definition.* – For the purposes of this Act, “cleaning agent” means a laundry
7 detergent, dishwashing compound, household dishwashing detergent, household cleaner, metal
8 cleaner, industrial cleaner, phosphate compound, or other substance that is intended to be used
9 for cleaning purposes.

10 SECTION 3. *Prohibition.* – It shall be illegal to sell, offer for sale, distribute for sale, or
11 use a cleaning agent that contains phosphorus in any form in excess of 8.7% by weight expressed
12 as elemental phosphorus.

13 It shall also be illegal to sell, offer for sale, distribute for sale, or use either of the
14 following cleaning agents if they contain phosphorus in any form in excess of 0.5% by weight

1 SECTION 4. *Penalties.* – (A) Any person who shall violate any of the provisions of
2 Section 3 of this Act shall, upon conviction, be subject to a fine of not less than ten thousand
3 pesos (₱10,000.00) but not more than fifty thousand pesos (₱50,000.00) or imprisonment of not
4 less than two (2) months but not more than one (1) year, or both, upon the discretion of the court.

5 (B) Any director, officer, or agent of a corporation, association, partnership, or any other
6 entity who shall authorize, order, or perform any of the acts or practices constituting in whole or
7 in part a violation of Section 3, shall be subject to the penalties to which that corporation may be
8 subject.

9 SECTION 5. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part thereof is held invalid or
10 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
11 valid and subsisting.

12 SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
13 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule, or regulation contrary to or inconsistent
14 with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

15 SECTION 7. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
16 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,