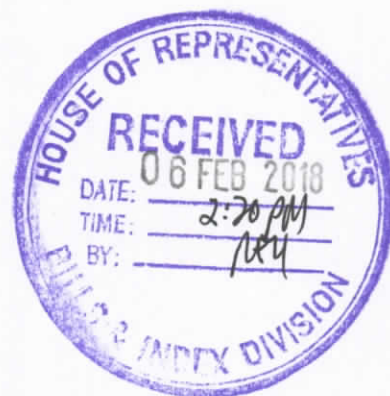


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

17th Congress
2nd Regular Session

House Bill No. 7121



Introduced by **HON. RODRIGO A. ABELLANOSA**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

News reports on buildings being consumed by fire resulting in numerous deaths abound all over the world. Here in the Philippines, the death of 37 people in a mall fire remain fresh in our memories. In many, if not most, of these disasters, the death tolls are caused primarily by suffocation, smoke inhalation, and/or exposure to toxic fumes.

Smoke inhalation incapacitates victims quickly, before they can reach the building fire exits. A statistical review conducted based on 2015 data in both the US and UK showed that 39% and 41%, respectively, of the fatalities are caused by toxic smoke.¹

As it is the duty of the State to protect its people's lives, we must do everything in our powers to ensure that their safety is of utmost importance and that all possible measures are taken to guarantee such. This bill seeks to compel all building owners to make available emergency escape hoods to be placed in visible and accessible areas in the building, especially along the escape routes to give those inside such buildings enough time and breathable air to enable them to get out of the building in case of fire.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rodrigo A. Abellanos'.

RODRIGO A. ABELLANOSA

¹ "What Kills People in a Fire? Heat or Smoke?" Alarifi, AAS, Phylaktou, HN and Andrews, GE. White Rose University Consortium, Universities of Leeds, Sheffield & York. Presented at the 9th Saudi students conference, 13-14 February 2016, ICC, University of Birmingham, Birmingham, UK

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House Bill No. 7121

Introduced by **HON. RODRIGO A. ABELLANOSA**

AN ACT
MANDATING THE PROVISION OF SMOKE HOODS
FOR EMERGENCY USE IN ALL HIGH-RISE BUILDING STRUCTURES

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

Sec. 1. Declaration of Policy. It is the duty of the State to safeguard the lives of its citizens. In this connection, it is the State's responsibility to promulgate laws and regulations that ensure the safety of the people in the face of unforeseen circumstances and disasters.

Sec. 2. Definition of Terms - As used in this Act:

- a. *Emergency escape hoods* – refers to a protective device covering the head and neck equipped with an air filter that allows the user to breathe without inhaling toxic fumes
- b. *High-rise buildings* – refers to buildings with six (6) or more storeys or are higher than nineteen meters (19.0m) tall.

Sec. 2. Emergency Escape Hoods. All building structures, regardless of occupancy classification, shall make available emergency escape hoods in conspicuous areas around the structure. The required number of such shall be determined based on the building's projected/expected density of human traffic. Compliance shall be a requisite to the issuance of an occupancy permit.

Sec. 3. Implementing Rules and Regulations. The Bureau of Fire Protection and the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations that shall be necessary for the proper implementation of this Act.

Sec. 4. Severability Clause. If any provision of this Act is subsequently declared unconstitutional, the validity of the remaining provisions hereof shall remain in full force and effect.

Sec. 5. *Repealing Clause.* All laws, acts, decrees, executive orders, issuances, and rules and regulations or parts thereof which are contrary to and inconsistent with any provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

Sec. 6. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen days (15 days) after its complete publication either in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,