

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **7190**



Introduced by HON. GUS S. TAMBUNTING

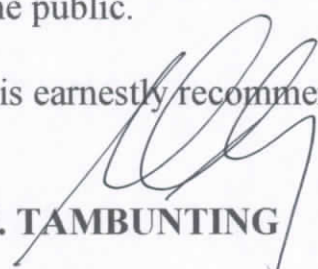
EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to require all electric, cable and telecommunications companies to conduct periodic inspections of their respective aerial utility line installations and to fix or remove all old unused aerial utility lines to ensure strict compliance with the standards and regulations provided under the Philippine Electrical Code.

One of the greatest ironies in the present world where everything seems to go wireless, is to see the grotesquely tangled mess of aerial wires and cables that hang from the utility posts of our towns and cities. Over the years, the accumulation of wires and cables, and the absence of regular inspection and monitoring by the utility companies, have caused some utility posts to lean and collapse, unable to support the excessive load of utility wires. Oftentimes, these wires and cables pose dangers to the life and limbs of the people in the area.

It is for this reason that this measure is proposed to mandate all electric, cable and telecommunications companies like MERALCO, PLDT, Bayantel, Skycable, to conduct periodic inspection of their respective aerial utility line installations, and ensure strict compliance with the standards and regulations under the Philippine Electrical Code. The proposed law will also require government agencies exercising jurisdiction over these installations to monitor the height clearance requirements for the safety of the public.

In view of the foregoing, approval of this bill is earnestly recommended.


GUS S. TAMBUNTING

(d) Strictly adhere and ensure strict compliance with the standards and regulations provided under the Philippine Electrical Code, as approved and adopted by the Board of Electrical Engineering of the Professional Regulation

1 Commission pursuant to the mandate vested upon the Board under Republic Act
2 No. 7920, also known as the "*New Electrical Engineering Law.*"

3 SEC. 2. All cities and municipalities, through their respective city or
4 municipal engineers, or any person authorized by the city or municipality to act
5 on their behalf, shall ensure that every utility companies, within their territorial
6 jurisdiction, comply with the provision of Section 1 of this Act. The city or
7 municipality may withhold the renewal of the corresponding business licenses
8 or permits for erring companies that fail to comply with the standards set forth
9 in RA 7920 and its implementing rules and regulations.

10 SEC. 3. The city or municipal engineer, or the authorized representative
11 of such city or municipality, in addition to the authority to withhold the grant or
12 renewal of licenses or business permits, may file a complaint against the
13 electric, cable and telecommunications company which fails to conduct periodic
14 inspection of its respective aerial utility line installations or to fix or bundle up
15 its utility lines or remove all old and unused lines in violation of the standards
16 and regulations provided under the Philippine Electrical Code before the court
17 of competent jurisdiction. An administrative complaint under the Local
18 Government Code, may likewise be filed by any person against the city or
19 municipal engineer who fails to monitor the compliance of electric, cable and
20 telecommunications companies with the standards and regulations provided
21 under the Philippine Electrical Code.

1 SEC. 4. In addition to the civil liabilities prescribed by Article 2176 of
2 the civil code on quasi-delict and the penalties prescribed by Article 365 of the
3 revised penal code on criminal negligence, the electric, cable or
4 telecommunications company which violates the provisions of Section 1 of this
5 Act, shall be punished with a fine of not less than One hundred thousand pesos
6 (P100,000.00) but not more than Two hundred fifty thousand pesos
7 (P250,000.00) for the first offense; a fine of not less than Two hundred fifty
8 thousand pesos (P250,000.00) but not more than Five hundred thousand pesos
9 (P500,000.00) for the second offense; and a fine of not less than Five hundred
10 thousand pesos (P500,000.00) but not more than One million pesos
11 (P1,000,000.00) for the third and succeeding offenses.

12 SEC. 5. The Secretary of Interior and Local Government shall, in
13 coordination and consultation with the Secretaries of Information and
14 Communications Technology, Public Works and Highways, and the Board of
15 Electrical Engineering, issue the necessary rules and regulations for the
16 effective implementation of this Act.

17 SEC. 6. All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or
18 parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed,
19 amended or modified accordingly.

20 SEC. 7. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
21 the *Official Gazette* or in a national newspaper of general circulation.

22 Approved,