

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7541



Introduced by **HON. LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.**

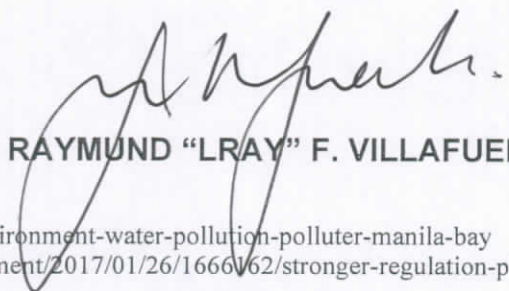
EXPLANATORY NOTE

According to environmental group Greenpeace, the Philippines ranks third as the "worst polluter of the world's oceans", after China and Indonesia¹. The three countries, as well as Thailand and Vietnam, are responsible for as much as 60% of the plastic waste in the world's oceans². The National Center for Ecological Analysis and Synthesis estimated over 8 million tons of plastic end up in the oceans every year. Asian nations were found to be a major contributor to plastic waste³.

The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) recognized the need to give our coastal and marine areas due attention. They reiterated this call by implementing the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act as well as facilitated the clearing of coastal areas from trash and debris⁴ in 2017 during the International Coastal Cleanup Day.

This bill intends to institutionalize the observance of the National Coastal Clean-Up Day to promote water pollution prevention via coastal cleanups. Similar to what the DENR has conducted, this bill proposes to turn coastal cleanups into an annual program by the agency and catalyze the support of other relevant agencies.

The approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.

¹ <http://newsinfo.inquirer.net/932739/greenpeace-environment-water-pollution-polluter-manila-bay>

² <http://www.philstar.com:8080/science-and-environment/2017/01/26/1666162/stronger-regulation-plastic-bags-urged>

³ Ibid.

⁴ <https://news.mb.com.ph/2017/09/15/denr-to-lead-coastal-cleanup-in-visayas/>

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AN ACT

INSTITUTIONALIZING INTERNATIONAL COASTAL CLEAN-UP DAY IN THE
PHILIPPINES PRESCRIBING EVERY SECOND SUNDAY OF SEPTEMBER A
NATIONAL COASTAL CLEAN-UP DAY

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "National Coastal Clean-up Day".

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accordance with the rhythm and harmony of nature and to promote consciousness over the protection of our marine resources.

SECTION 3. *Observance of the National Coastal Clean-Up Day.* – An annual program of activities that would promote water pollution prevention via coastal cleanups shall be prepared and implemented by the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). In support there, the:

- a. Department of Education;
- b. Commission on Higher Education;
- c. Civil Service Commission;
- d. Department of Interior and Local Government;

- e. Philippine National Police; and
- f. Armed Forces of the Philippines
- g. Schools (Public and Private); and
- h. National and Local Government Agencies.

Shall facilitate and encourage the commemoration of this day.

In addition, the Philippine Information Agency (PIA), in coordination with the abovementioned agencies, shall ensure the effective information dissemination of this Act.

SECTION 4. *Funding.* – The amount necessary for the effective implementation of this Act shall be charged to the appropriations of the DENR under the current General Appropriations Act (GAA). Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual GAA.

SECTION 5. *Separability Clause.* – Should any provision herein be declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity of the other provisions of this Act.

SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or other issuances or parts inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SECTION 7. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect in fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in one (1) newspaper of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,