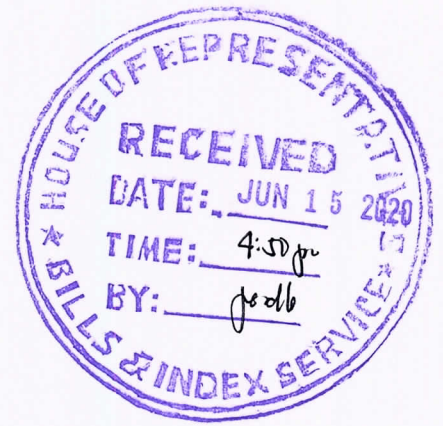




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila



Eighteenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6998

Introduced by **Representative AMIHILDA J. SANGCOPAN** of Anak
Mindanao (AMIN) Party-List

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to require the owners, operators or administrators of business establishments, such as shopping malls, hospitals, wholesale and retail stores, drinking and dining establishments, hotels and similar businesses, movie houses, supermarkets, gasoline and service stations, sea and land transport terminals, office buildings, and the like, which are frequented by the public, to install and maintain wash-hand stations for public use.

The health and safety of the people is one of the priorities when operating a business. In order to protect their well-being, it is necessary to establish a standard of cleanliness and prevent the spread of disease. The simple practice of washing one's hands could prevent the spread of disease and is crucial in maintaining a healthy and reputable business.

On April 17, 2019, Republic Act No. 11311, otherwise known as the "*Land Terminal Improvement Act*," required owners, operators, or administrators of land transport terminals to provide adequate sanitary facilities for passengers which include, among others, running water supply, lavatory with toilet paper, mirror, soap and hand dryer.

Likewise, a Global Handwashing Day is held every 15th day of October of each year, as an annual global advocacy day initiated by the Global Public-Private Partnership for Handwashing, that is being celebrated by various agencies and offices such as the Department of Education, Department of Health, UNICEF, German Development Cooperative (GIZ), Save the Children, International Medical Corps, Procter and Gamble, Maynilad, Manila Water, local government units and other stakeholders. Since the formation of the partnership in 2019, more than thirty hand washing facilities or stations were built in several public schools nationwide.

This bill intends to increase public awareness and understanding that handwashing with soap is the most effective and affordable method to prevent diseases and save lives, and address the recent threat of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19).

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



HON. AMIHILDA J. SANGCOPAN
Representative
Anak Mindanao (AMIN) Party-List



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HOUSE BILL NO. 6998

Introduced by **Representative AMIHILDA J. SANGCOPAN** of Anak
Mindanao (AMIN) Party-List

AN ACT
REQUIRING THE OWNERS, OPERATORS OR ADMINISTRATORS
OF BUSINESS ESTABLISHMENTS TO INSTALL AND MAINTAIN
WASH-HAND STATIONS FOR PUBLIC USE AND PROVIDING
PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION THEREOF

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

SECTION 1. *Installation of Wash-Hand Stations.* – All owners, operators or administrators of business establishments are required to install wash-hand stations for public use in their respective establishments properly located in areas that are accessible to the public.

As used in this Act, the term *business establishment* includes shopping malls, hospitals, wholesale and retail stores, drinking and dining establishments, hotels and similar businesses, movie houses, supermarkets, gasoline and service

stations, sea and land transport terminals, office buildings, and similar entities operating for commercial purposes and frequented by the public.

SEC. 2. ***Maintenance of Wash-Hand Stations.*** – All wash-hand stations must have an adequate supply of water, soap, tissue and hand drying facilities. Wash-hand station facilities must, at all times, be maintained in good repair and in a clean condition.

SEC. 3. ***Business Permits and Licenses.*** – Business establishments without provision for wash-hand stations that are accessible for public use shall not be issued a business permit or license. The same permit or license shall not be renewed if the business establishment is found to have violated Section 2 of this Act.

SEC. 4. ***Penalties.*** – Owners, operators or administrators of business establishments who are found guilty for failure to install and maintain wash-hand stations for public use in violation of this Act shall be imposed a fine of not less than Ten thousand pesos (P10,000.00) but not more than Twenty thousand pesos (P20,000.00).

Government officials or employees who approved the issuance of permits and licenses in violation of Section 2 of this Act shall suffer suspension of not less than ten (10) days but not more than thirty (30) days after due notice and hearing in appropriate administrative proceedings.

SEC. 5. ***Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act, the Secretary of Health shall promulgate rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 6. ***Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, rules and regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,