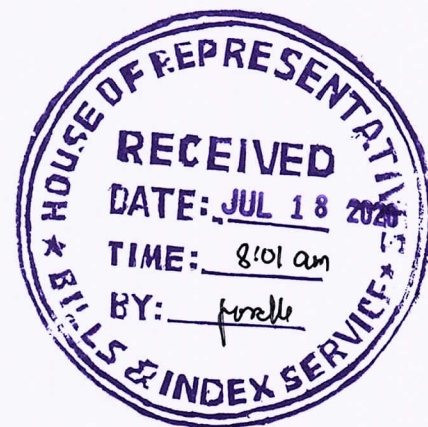


Republic of the Philippines  
**House of Representatives**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 7115



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**INTRODUCED BY**  
**REP. ALFRED VARGAS**

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

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

According to World Bank senior environmental engineer Gerardo Parco, the Philippines is ranked third among 20 countries in terms of mismanaged plastic waste, with 1.88 million metric tons per year recorded in 2010<sup>1</sup>. This issue is alarming, considering that the Philippines is at the epicenter of Earth's marine biodiversity.

Out of the total 2.7 million tons of plastic waste annually, about 84 percent or 2.27 million tons are collected and the 16 percent or 432,000 tons remain uncollected. From which, a total of 521,000 tons are leaked to the ocean<sup>1</sup>.

The Philippines, considering its 7,641 islands, has the fifth longest coastlines in the world at 6,289 kilometers. It is covered by the 1987 Constitution, particularly Article 12, Section 2, Paragraph 2, which states, "The State shall protect the nation's marine wealth in its archipelagic waters, territorial sea."

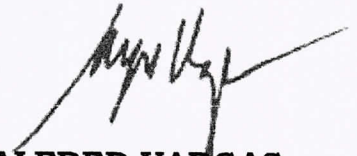
Hence, there remains a need to increase consciousness and awareness among the Filipino people on the importance of preserving our marine resources.

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<sup>1</sup> Business Mirror. 2019. "No time to waste: PHL reckons with managing trash"  
<https://businessmirror.com.ph/2019/06/27/no-time-to-waste-phl-reckons-with-managing-trash/> (Accessed 12 July 2020)

This bill aims to promote environmental efforts to save the seas through a National Coastal Clean-up Day.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this measure is earnestly sought.



**ALFRED VARGAS**

Republic of the Philippines  
**House of Representatives**  
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*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 thereof, the following shall facilitate and encourage the commendation of this day:

- Department of Education (DepEd);
- Commission on Higher Education (CHED);
- Civil Service Education (CSC);
- Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG);
- Philippine National Police (PNP); and
- Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP)
- Schools (Public and Private); and

- National and Local Government Agencies.

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 implementations 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 implementations of this Act shall be included in the annual GAA.

**SECTION 5. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, rules and regulations or part thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modify accordingly.

**SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.*** – If any part, section or provision of this Act shall be held invalid or unconstitutional, no other part, section or provisions thereof shall be affected thereby.

**SECTION 7. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following the completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or two (2) newspapers of general circulation

*Approved,*