

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

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. 7174



INTRODUCED BY
REP. ALFRED VARGAS

AN ACT
PROHIBITING THE ACTIVE USE AND DISPLAY OF
COMMERICAL BILLBOARDS DURING TYPHOONS

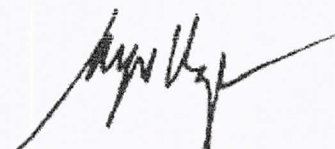
EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) records an average of 20 tropical cyclones that enter the country's area of responsibility every year. The damages of typhoons are no stranger to the public. In recent years, the likes of Typhoon Yolanda in 2013, Typhoon Pablo in 2012, and Typhoon Glenda in 2014 have cost billions of pesos and are recorded as the top three most destructive typhoons in the country.

Meanwhile, the Philippine Center for Investigative Journalism (PCIJ) in 2005 has published a report on the health and environmental hazards brought about by the rising number of commercial billboards in the metro. The continued use of billboards during typhoons pose a threat to general public safety and are thus necessary to be regulated and mitigated.

This bill seeks to regulate the use of billboards during typhoons to mitigate environmental and safety hazards of the use thereof.

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


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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – The Act shall be known as the “*Bawal Billboard Tuwing Bagyo Act*”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to mitigate the risk of billboard-related accidents during typhoons. For this purpose, the operation of billboards during weather disturbances shall be strictly prohibited as a public safety measure for the safety of motorists and pedestrians.

SECTION 3. Prohibition on the Active Use of Billboards During Typhoons. – All advertising materials shall be automatically taken down by the billboard operator within 12 hours from an official announcement and/or release of a Typhoon Signal No. 1 bulletin, or any other significant weather disturbance by the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAG-ASA). This prohibition shall be in effect for the duration of the weather disturbance. For this purpose, contents on tarpaulin-based billboards shall be taken down, while electronic-based billboards shall be switched off during this period.

SECTION 4. Penal Clause. – Any billboard operator or person who shall violate the provisions of this Act shall be subject to a fine of not less than Three Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 300,000.00), or the imprisonment of not less than six months but not more than one year, upon the discretion of the court.

SECTION 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Department of Public Works and Highway (DPWH) in consultation with the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA) and other metropolitan councils and other relevant agencies shall promulgate and issue the implementing rules and regulations of this Act within sixty (60) days from the effectivity thereof.

SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, executive orders, rules and regulations or any part thereof inconsistent herewith are deemed repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 7. *Separability Clause.* – If any part or provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 8. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,