

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila
EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session
HOUSE BILL NO. 9246



Introduced by Hon. Anthony Peter “Onyx” D. Crisologo

AN ACT
MANDATING THE USE OF GRAY WATER TREATMENT SYSTEM
IN PUBLIC AND PRIVATE BUILDINGS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In an article published by the World Health Organization, it stated that 1 out of 10 Filipinos does not have access to improved water resources. This is due to the ongoing water scarcity that also causes adverse effects to the sustainable development and health of the country.¹ With the issue of climate change, coupled with the growing population of the country, water crisis is deemed to worsen through the years.

The importance of having access to sufficient supply of water is emphasized as we continue to fight against Covid-19. According to the Manila Times, water is critical in combating the perils posed by the pandemic, noting that the first line of protection entails handwashing and maintaining the cleanliness of our homes.² This bill seeks to encourage greater water conservation efforts by reducing water waste and optimizing the available resources to avoid excessive use of ground water. Water is essential for public health, sanitation, and many other domestic purposes that involve our daily activities. It is imperative that we take water conservation as an urgent concern and safeguard our resources to ensure the sustained development and protection of our country.

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


ANTHONY PETER “ONYX” D. CRISOLOGO
Representative
First District, Quezon City

¹ “Water shortage in the Philippines threatens sustainable development and health.” World Health Organization, 2019, <https://www.who.int/philippines/news/feature-stories/detail/water-shortage-in-the-philippines-threatens-sustainable-development-and-health>, (accessed April 7, 2021)

² Tolentino Amado S., Jr. “Health crisis and the looming water crisis.” Manila Times, 2020, <https://www.manilatimes.net/2020/09/26/opinion/columnists/health-crisis-and-the-looming-water-crisis/772130/>, (accessed April 13, 2021)

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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 “*Gray Water Treatment System Act of 2021.*”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy - It is hereby declared a policy of the state to promote the conservation of its natural resources through the creation of policies that mandate the development and use of water management plans in public and private establishments.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms - For purposes of this Act, the following terms are defined:

- a. **Gray water** - “Water from the kitchen, bath and/or laundry which, generally, does not contain significant concentrations of excreta.” (World Health Organization, 2016, p. ix).³
- b. **Gray water system** - A mechanism that filters gray water to eliminate contaminants allowing it to be reused.
- c. **Building** - This refers to all public and private establishments with a minimum water consumption of 50 cubic meters per day.

SECTION 4. Coverage - All new and existing buildings with a minimum water consumption of 50 cubic meters per day shall be covered by this Act.

SECTION 5. Compulsory Installation of Gray Water Treatment System - All public and private establishments with a minimum water consumption of 50 cubic meters per day shall install a Gray Water Treatment

³ “*Sanitation Safety Planning.*” World Health Organization, 2016, https://apps.who.int/iris/bitstream/handle/10665/171753/9789241549240_eng.pdf;jsessionid=4DA4888B8AC13F9E0CF7E63857B89974?sequence=1, (accessed April 8, 2021)

system to reduce the use of clean water for toilets, urinals, and subsurface irrigation.

Upon the implementation of this Act, all new establishments shall be required to present a water management plan that includes the installation of Gray Water Treatment System, to be reviewed by the Building Official of the concerned city/municipal government, as a prerequisite for the issuance of a building permit.

Further, all existing establishments shall install a Gray Water Treatment System within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act.

SECTION 6. Reuse of Gray Water - Upon the installation of the Gray Water Treatment System, the management of the building shall ensure that no gray water shall be used for human consumption.

SECTION 7. Inspection - Prior to the issuance of a Certificate of Occupancy to new buildings, the city/municipal government shall conduct a site inspection to ensure that a Gray Water Treatment System is in place.

Further, the annual building inspection, as stated under Section 207 “Duties of the Building Official” of the PD 1096 National Building Code, shall include a comprehensive inspection of the Gray Water Treatment System, to be conducted by the city/municipal government issuing the permit, to ensure that the system is functional and in operation.

SECTION 8. Penalty - Failure to comply with the provisions of this Act shall result to the cancellation of the certificate of occupancy and/or sanitary permit relevant to the renewal of business permits.

SECTION 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations - The city/municipal government in coordination with Metropolitan Waterworks and Sewerage System, and in consultation with the Department of Science and Technology and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources, shall promulgate the rules and regulations of this Act.

SECTION 10. Separability Clause - If any of the sections or provisions of this Act is held invalid, all other provisions not affected shall remain valid.

SECTION 11. Repealing Clause - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or other issuances or parts thereof contrary or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 12. Effectivity - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following the completion of its publication in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,