

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Third Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10137



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

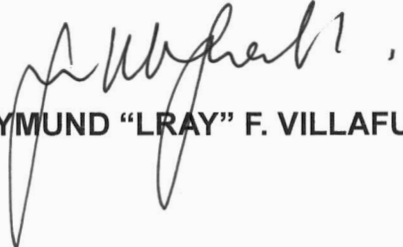
**AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR STRICTER ENFORCEMENT IN THE CONSTRUCTION,
INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC SAFETY SIGNAGES**

This proposed measure seeks the improvement of public safety signages in the country by mandating enforcement entities such as DPWH, MMDA, and various LGUs to construct, install and maintain signs that are in accordance with both local and international standards on public safety signages, with corresponding penalties for failure to do so.

The Philippines has ratified the 1968 Vienna Convention on Road Signs and Signals in 1973, yet road accidents are still prevalent in the country. One identified factor for road crashes are the faulty road signs installed throughout the streets and highways of the country. The faulty or lack of signages remain a threat to both motorists and pedestrians.

This bill seeks to contribute to other existing measures by helping guide motorists traverse roads in a better and safer way.

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


LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.

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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 "*Public Safety Signages Accountability Act.*"

Section 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the declared policy of the State to safeguard the life, health, property, and the general welfare of the people. Towards this end, the State shall provide the people with appropriate information through the construction, installation, and maintenance of accident-prevention or risk-reduction signages in areas identified as potential risks or dangers.

Section 3. Public Safety Signages. – Consistent with the above policy, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) and the local government units (LGUs), shall undertake the construction, installation, and maintenance of public safety signages. They shall ensure that these signages conform to the standard specifications under Section 4 of this Act and are strategically located, clear, visible and properly maintained.

For purposes of this Act, public safety signages refer to regulatory signs, warning signs, guide or informative signs, signs for expressways, signs for special purposes or traffic instruction signs, hazard markers, road works signs, warning signages in areas vulnerable to landslides, floods, storm surge, and other hazards, as well as other risk reduction signages that are officially designed or erected by the national government, local government, or other pertinent government agencies pursuant to any government project or campaign and for the purpose of public safety.

Section 4. Public Safety Signages Standard. – All public safety signages shall conform to the standard specifications prescribed under Presidential Decree No. 1096, otherwise known as the "National Building Code of the Philippines", DPWH

Road Signs and Pavement Markings Manual, the Outdoor Landslide Warning Signage of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Mines and Geo Sciences Bureau (DENR-MGB), the pertinent provisions of the 1968 Vienna on Road Signs and Signals, and other relevant laws and issuances from government agencies.

Section 5. *Public Safety Signages on Geologic Hazards.* – The DENR-MGB, in coordination with other pertinent government agencies, shall update the geohazard map and identify areas that are susceptible or prone to various geologic hazards such as floods, landslides, earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions and other similar calamities. It shall then coordinate with the affected city and municipal engineers, DPWH, and MMDA for the proper installment of public safety signages on geologic hazards. These signages shall conform to the standard specifications under Section 4 of this Act and are strategically located, clear, visible, and properly maintained.

Section 6. *Officers in Charge for Road and Traffic Public Safety Signages.* – The DPWH through its respective District Engineers in case of national roads, the MMDA through the Director of the Traffic Engineering Center in case of national roads In Metro Manila, and the LGUs through the City or Municipal engineers in case of local roads shall be responsible for the duties and responsibilities mentioned under Sections 3, 4 and 5 of this Act.

Section 7. *Administrative Penalties.* – In case an injury or death occurs due to: (a) lack of an installation of public safety signages despite being identified as areas of potential risk or danger by the DENR-MGB; (b) construction of public safety signages contrary to the standards provided under Section 4 of this Act; or (c) lack or poor maintenance of public safety signages; the DPWH district engineer involved, the MMDA Director of the Traffic Engineering Center, or the City or Municipal Engineer shall, after due notice and hearing, suffer the administrative penalty of suspension of one (1) month and one (1) day to three (3) months, for the first offense; three (3) months and one (1) day to six (6) months, for the second offense; six (6) months and one (1) day to one (1) year, for the third offense; and dismissal from service, for the fourth offense.

Section 8. *Funding.* – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the concerned agency or city or municipality. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for continued implementation shall be Included in the annual budget of the concerned agency or city or municipality.

Section 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act, the Secretary of Interior and Local Government, in coordination with the Secretary of Public Works and Highways and the Secretary of Environment and Natural Resources, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations implementing the provisions of this Act.

Section 10. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, or rules and regulations which are inconsistent or contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby amended or repealed accordingly.

Section 10. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,