



HOUSE BILL NO. 1598

1 AN ACT
2 PROVIDING FOR STRICTER ENFORCEMENT IN THE
3 CONSTRUCTION, INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE OF
4 PUBLIC SAFETY SIGNAGES

SECTION 1. **Short Title.** – This act shall be known as the “*Public Safety Signages Accountability Act.*”

SEC. 3. **Public Safety Signages.** – Consistent with the above policy, the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) and local government units (LGUs), shall undertake the construction, installation, and maintenance of public safety

1 signages. They shall ensure that these signages are strategically located, clear,
2 visible and properly maintained.

3 For purposes of this Act, *public safety signages* refer to direction or
4 informative signs, advisory, regulatory, messages, markings, including
5 infrastructure project announcements and descriptions, traffic signs and accident
6 warning devices, expressway and special purpose signs, warning signages in
7 communities vulnerable to fire, flood, landslide, tsunami, earthquake and other
8 catastrophes, and other risk reduction devices that are officially designed and
9 erected by or through the National Government or any of the local government
10 units pursuant to any government project or campaign and for the purpose of
11 public safety.

12 **SEC.4. *Public Safety Signages Standard.*** – All public safety signages shall
13 conform to the standard specifications prescribed under Presidential Decree No.
14 1096, otherwise known as the “*National Building Code of the Philippines,*” the
15 DPWH Road Signs and Pavement Markings Manual, the Manual on Uniform
16 Traffic Control Devices and the Outdoor Landslide Warning Signage of the
17 Department of Environment and Natural Resources – Mines and Geo Sciences
18 Bureau (DENR-MGB).

19 **SEC. 5. *Public Safety Signages on Geologic Hazards.*** – Under the
20 framework of the National Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council
21 (NDRRMC) the DENR-MGB in collaboration with the Philippine Institute of
22 Volcanology and Seismology, Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and

1 Astronomical Services Administration, National Mapping and Resource
2 Information Authority and the Office of Civil Defense shall update the geohazard
3 map and identify areas that are susceptible or prone to various geologic hazards,
4 such as floods and landslides, earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions and
5 similar natural or man-made calamities, and make proper coordination with the
6 city or municipal engineer of these areas. The city or municipal engineer, in
7 coordination with the local disaster risk reduction and management (LDRRM)
8 office, shall be responsible for putting up public safety signages on geologic
9 hazards and ensure that these signages conform to the standard specifications
10 under Section 4 of this Act and are strategically located, clear, visible and
11 properly maintained.

12 **SEC. 6. *Road and Traffic Public Safety Signages.*** – The DPWH through
13 the respective district engineers in the case of national roads, the MMDA through
14 the director of the Traffic Engineering Center in the case of national roads in
15 Metro Manila and the LGUs through the city or municipal engineers in the case
16 of local roads shall be responsible for the construction, installation and
17 maintenance of road and traffic public safety signages such as warning,
18 regulatory, hazard, informative, expressway and special purpose signs and ensure
19 that these signages conform to the standard specifications under Section 4 of this
20 Act and are strategically located, clear, visible and properly maintained.

21 **SEC. 7. *Administrative Penalties.*** – In case an injury or death occurs due
22 to: (a) lack of an installation of public safety signages despite being identified as

1 potential risk or danger by the DENR-MGB; (b) construction of public safety
2 signages contrary to the standards provided under Section 4 of this Act; or (c)
3 lack or poor maintenance of public safety signages; the DPWH district engineer,
4 the MMDA director of the Traffic Engineering Center or the city or municipal
5 engineer shall, after due notice and hearing, suffer the administrative penalty of
6 suspension of one (1) month and one (1) day to three (3) months, for the first
7 offense; three (3) months and one (1) day to six (6) months, for the second
8 offense; six (6) months and one (1) day to one (1) year, for the third offense; and
9 dismissal from the service, for the fourth offense.

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

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

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

1 SEC. 11. ***Effectivity Clause.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen days (15)
2 days after publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general
3 circulation.

4 Approved,



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

Nineteenth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1598



Introduced by Representative Jorge Antonio P. Bustos

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 5, Article II of the 1987 Constitution provides:

“The maintenance of peace and order, the protection of life, liberty, and property, and the promotion of the general welfare are essential for the enjoyment by all the people of the blessings of democracy.”

Likewise, Article 2189 of the Civil Code provides:

“Provinces, cities and municipalities shall be liable for damages for the death of, or injuries suffered by, any person by reason of the defective condition of roads, streets, bridges, public buildings, and other public works under their control and supervision.”

The aforementioned constitutional and statutory provisions mandate the government to promote the general welfare of the people and prevent loss of life and damage to property. For this purpose, government agencies are providing the people with appropriate information through the construction, installation and maintenance of the necessary traffic signs, accident-prevention or risk-reduction devices or other public safety signages as measures for the general public against imminent dangers and risks. Nevertheless, these public safety signages are often improperly maintained, if not totally lacking or absent in conspicuous and strategic places.

Data from the Philippine Statistics Authority reveal that the number of persons involved in highway traffic accidents has been increasing. In 2014, a total of 25,794 Filipinos figured in road accidents nationwide. These traffic incidents, however, may perhaps be prevented if proper safeguards such as clear and visible road signs were in place.

On the other hand, based on the 2019 Status Report on Disaster Risk Reduction in the Philippines by the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction and the Asian Disaster Preparedness Center, the Philippines ranked third among all of the countries with the highest risks worldwide according to the World Risk Report 2018, with index value of 25.14%.

It was likewise reported that at least 60% of the country's total land area is exposed to multiple hazards, and 74% of the population is susceptible to their impact. Accordingly, this is largely due to the location and geographical context as the risk involving coastal hazards such as typhoons, storm surges and rising sea levels is high.

Further, tectonic plates, earthquakes and volcanoes are posing serious risks to the safety of the populace, as the islands are located within the "Ring of Fire." Flooding, landslides, droughts and tsunamis also contribute to the exposure to natural hazards. Of these, hydro-meteorological events including typhoons and floods, accounted for over 80% of the natural disasters in the country during the last half-century.

The main challenge for the government lies in identifying methods on accident-prevention and risk reduction with the increasing incidence of road accidents and disasters aggravated by climate change and geo-hazards. It is therefore imperative for the government in coordination with the concerned

national agencies to construct, install and maintain in strategic and conspicuous places, traffic and other warning signages in communities vulnerable to inundation, fire, landslide, tsunami, earthquake and similar natural or man-made calamities.

This bill seeks to provide stricter enforcement in the construction, installation and maintenance of public safety signages and accountability to the responsible city or municipal engineering the case of local government units, or the director of the traffic engineering center of the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA) in the case of Metropolitan Manila administrative region, or the respective district engineer of the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) in the case of National Government.

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



JORGE ANTONIO P. BUSTOS