

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **10538**

Introduced by: **REP. SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Manholes are access points for underground public utilities such as water supply and sewerage systems, allowing for easy inspection, maintenance, repair, and upgrades. They are generally found in streets and pavements. It is a common sight we see every time we traverse these pathways.

But not all water supply lines or sewers are accessible by a manhole in case of leak repair or service upgrade. Digging up the road or pavement on top is, therefore, necessary to access the supply line to be repaired or modified.

The inevitable digging of roads and pavements should only be a temporary inconvenience to passing motorists and pedestrians. However, it will become a nuisance if these altered roads or pavements are not restored to their original state and condition. It will pose a great danger and can affect everyone from pedestrians, bikers, motorcyclists, and motorists in general.

To avoid such incidents from happening, it is hereby proposed through this measure that public utility companies such as water and sewerage are mandated to reconstruct and restore the roads, pavements or pathways that they dug within twenty-four 24 hours after completion of their activities.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate consideration and approval of this measure is earnestly sought.

SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.

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AN ACT MANDATING WATER AND SEWERAGE COMPANIES TO RECONSTRUCT AND RESTORE PORTION OF ROADS AND PAVEMENTS IMPAIRED DURING THE COURSE OF THEIR SERVICE ACTIVITIES

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "Road Restoration Act of 2024"

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the declared policy of the State to safeguard life, health, property, and the general welfare of the people. The State acknowledges the value of promoting awareness among citizens,

The State shall implement measures to minimize road accidents caused by damaged roads, by mandating water and sewerage companies to rebuild and restore portions of roads and pavements impaired during the course of their service activities.

SEC. 3. *Coverage* – This Act shall cover all water and sewerage companies engaged in the construction and maintenance of water supply and sewer pipes all over the country.

SEC. 4. *Responsibilities of Water and Sewerage Companies* – Water and sewerage utility companies are mandated to reconstruct and restore portions of road or pavement they alter to give way to their maintenance and repair activities.

SEC. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Department of Public Works and Highways, in consultation with the

Department of Interior and Local Government, shall promulgate the necessary implementing rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 6. *Separability Clause* -If any provision of this Act is held unconstitutional, other provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid and binding.

SEC. 7. *Repealing Clause.* – All other laws, decrees, executive orders, issuances, rules and regulations, or part thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby likewise repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 8. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following the completion of its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,