



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila



TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 537

Introduced by Representative **EDUARDO R. RAMA, JR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines continues to grapple with the persistent problem of littering, which contributes to the degradation of the environment and deterioration of vital drainage systems.¹ During the rainy season, it has become a regular scene to see litter, including plastic bottles and bags, floating around high waters and then clogging canals, sewers, and storm drains.²

This issue is not confined to urban infrastructure but is also evident during large public gatherings and in natural tourist destinations. For instance, during the Translacion, EcoWaste Coalition had recorded single-use plastic bags, bottles, food containers, paper packaging, food waste, soiled diapers, improvised sleeping materials, cigarette butts, and disposable vapes as among the most discarded items.³ Similarly, the management of Mt. Pulag announced that it is temporarily closing its two (2) campsites, which are littered with garbage probably left by hikers and trekkers.⁴

This proposed legislative measure seeks to strengthen the implementation of Republic Act No. 9003, or the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000, by imposing community service as the primary penalty for littering offenses, thereby promoting restorative justice and civic engagement. Accordingly, violators of this Act will be active in the preservation and rehabilitation of the environment.

¹ G. Ombay, S. Locus (30 July 2024). [*DPWH: 70% of NCR's internal drainage clogged with garbage, silt.*](#)

² The Climate Reality Project Philippines (02 August 2024). [*Eleventh Hour: How plastics worsen floods, emissions.*](#)

³ M. Montemayor (09 January 2025). [*Group laments uncontrollable littering during Translacion.*](#)

⁴ A. Quitasol (20 February 2025). [*Mt. Pulag Closes Campsites for Rehabilitation Amid Littering Issues*](#)

Furthermore, the bill empowers local government units (LGUs) and the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) to implement and monitor the community service programs and environmental education.

In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought to promote environmental protection, strengthen civic responsibility, and uphold the constitutional right to a healthy environment.

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a stylized 'E' followed by a horizontal line and a small flourish.

REP. EDUARDO R. RAMA JR.

2nd District, Cebu City



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**AN ACT PENALIZING LITTERING AND IMPROPER WASTE DISPOSAL,
PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** — This Act shall be known as the “Anti-Litterbug Act of 2025”.

2
3 **SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** — It is a continuing policy of the State to protect
4 public health, preserve environmental cleanliness, and institutionalize waste reduction. The State
5 shall promote a culture of environmental responsibility through education, community
6 participation, and the adoption of best practices in waste management.
7

8 **SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms*** — For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall
9 mean:

10 a. **Community Service** – Unpaid labor for public benefit, supervised by LGUs or
11 accredited environmental organizations.

12 b. **Domestic Waste** – Food residues, food preparation waste and spoilage, paper and
13 other products, metals, plastics and rubber, rugs and clothes, process residues, yard
14 trimmings, and wood.

15 c. **Environmentally sensitive areas** – This includes flood-prone areas as identified by
16 relevant government agencies; public rivers, estuaries, and canals, particularly those within
17 city limits or under commercial bridges; watersheds, aquifers, and other areas designated
18 as protected or critical to water management and public health.

19 d. **Hazardous Waste** – Any waste or combination of wastes of solid liquid, contained
20 gaseous, or semi-solid form which cause, of contribute to, an increase in mortality or an

1 increase in serious irreversible, or incapacitating reversible illness, taking into account
2 toxicity of such waste, its persistence and degradability in nature, its potential for
3 accumulation or concentration in tissue, and other factors that may otherwise cause or
4 contribute to adverse acute or chronic effects on the health of persons or organisms.

5 e. Immediate surroundings – Refers to the frontage, including up to the mid-span of
6 the road, alley or avenue (excluding highways and major thoroughfares) from the edge of
7 the street gutter, sidewalks of residential houses, dwelling units, business/commercial
8 establishments or offices, whether private or public.

9
10 f. Industrial waste – Any solid, semi-solid, or liquid waste material with no
11 commercial value released by a manufacturing or processing plant other than excluded
12 material.

13 g. Littering – The act of throwing, dumping, or leaving waste, trash, garbage, or any
14 kind of refuse in public places, roads, sidewalks, parks, waterways, or any area not
15 designated as a waste receptacle or for waste disposal.

16 h. Litterbug – Any person who drops waste, litter, trash, garbage, or any kind of refuse
17 on the ground in public places not intended for waste disposal, or who commits the act of
18 littering as defined in this Act.

19 i. Open public place – This includes roads, streets, sidewalks, easements, parks, and
20 other open spaces, bridges, alleys, overpasses, rivers, creeks, canals, drainage, esteros,
21 waterways, and other bodies of water and outlets, which are accessible to the public.

22
23 j. Potentially infectious medical waste – Refers to isolation wastes, infectious agents,
24 human blood and blood products, pathological wastes, sharps, body parts, contaminated
25 bedding, surgical wastes, and other disposable medical equipment and material that may
26 pose a risk to the public health, welfare, or the marine environment.

27
28 k. Solid Waste – Refuse arising from human, animal, and industrial activities that are
29 normally of a solid nature and discarded or thrown away as useless and/or unwanted.

30
31 l. Waste – Any material, either solid, liquid, semisolid, contained gas, or other forms
32 resulting from industrial, commercial, mining, or agricultural operations, or from
33 community and household activities that is devoid of usage and discarded.

34
35 **SECTION 4. *Prohibited Acts*** — For purposes of this Act, the following acts are
36 prohibited:
37

1 a. Dumping, throwing, scattering, strewing, littering, or disposing of garbage, refuse,
2 or any types of waste as defined in Section 3 of the Act such as, but not limited to, plastics,
3 papers, kitchen waste, cigarette butts and cigarette packs in open public places and
4 immediate surroundings, including vacant lots, rivers, canals, drainage, and other water
5 ways, not otherwise designated as garbage dumping areas, trash cans, or receptacles,
6 whether owned by the government or private entities.

7
8 b. Littering, dumping, burying, throwing, or disposing of any form of waste as
9 defined in Section 3 of this Act in environmentally sensitive areas, including but not limited
10 to flood-prone zones, public rivers, aquifers, reservoirs, watersheds, esteros, canals, and
11 waterways, especially those located under or adjacent to commercial bridges within urban
12 centers.

13
14 c. Placing, storing, or dumping construction waste or debris, junked or under repair
15 vehicles, dilapidated appliances, and similar objects in any part of the road, street, or
16 avenue, or any sidewalk, which may obstruct or impede vehicular and pedestrian traffic.

17
18 d. Bringing out garbage on the property line of residential and commercial
19 establishments or any part of the road, which must be stored in properly sealed plastic
20 containers and brought outside only upon arrival of the authorized garbage hauling trucks
21 in their respective localities.

22
23 e. Spilling, scattering, and littering in or upon any street or draining any of the
24 contents of any garbage or refuse bin.

25
26 f. Urinating or defecating in or upon any street, vacant land, river, canal, ditch, drain,
27 or watercourse, or in any public place.

28
29 g. Spilling, throwing, or depositing any litter, garbage, or refuse on any part of the
30 road, street, or other public places, while being a driver or passenger of any private or
31 public vehicle on the way to their destination.

32
33 h. Unauthorized removal, mixing, or interference with recyclable materials intended
34 for collection by authorized persons or entities.

35
36 i. Violating local anti-littering ordinances, which impose fines and community
37 service for littering offenses.

1 **SECTION 5. *Implementation*** — Every LGU is responsible for:

- 2
- 3 a. Designating the locations for community service, taking into consideration the
- 4 safety, well being and basic human rights of the person who has been found to have
- 5 violated this act;
- 6 b. Formulating guidelines for implementing community service, including the number
- 7 of hours for community service and issuance of citation tickets;
- 8 c. Recording and maintaining the list of persons who are found to have violated this
- 9 Act;
- 10 d. Identifying and authorizing officers who shall apprehend violators and issue
- 11 citation tickets; and
- 12 e. Coordinating with the Department of Education (“DepEd”) in the conduct of
- 13 mandatory environmental education to offenders at the age of fifteen (15) years old.

14

15 **SECTION 6. *Penalty*** — Every person who performs any of the aforementioned prohibited

16 acts is mandated to perform community service within the LGU where the offense was committed:

- 17
- 18 a. In case of a first offense, the person shall perform at least eight (8) hours but not
- 19 exceeding ten (10) hours of community service.
- 20 b. In case of a second offense, the person shall perform at least twelve (12) hours but
- 21 not exceeding twenty-four (24) hours of community service.
- 22 c. In case of subsequent offenses, the person shall perform thirty-six (36) hours but
- 23 not exceeding seventy-two (72) hours of community service.

24

25 In the event that the offender is a minor, he or she shall undergo mandatory environmental

26 education organized by the LGU concerned.

27

28 **SECTION 7. *Public Education and Community Engagement***. — The Department of

29 Environment and Natural Resources, in coordination with the DepED, Commission on Higher

30 Education, Department of Interior and Local Government, and Philippine Information Agency,

31 shall conduct a continuing education and information campaign on the implementation of this Act,

32 including proper waste management and disposal.

33

34 To ensure the effectiveness and sustainability of these efforts, any of the following

35 activities may be promoted by the aforementioned agencies:

- a. Partnership with LGUs and community-based organizations to organize clean-up drives to encourage direct participation from residents;
- b. Encourage the formation of volunteer groups within communities to monitor and report littering;
- c. Incorporate modules on environmental responsibility and stewardship into school curricula at all levels; and
- d. Launch public awareness campaigns to emphasize the impacts of littering on public health and ecological balance.

SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.*— If, for any reason, any section of this Act shall be deemed unconstitutional and invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof shall not be affected and shall remain in force and effect.

SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.* — All laws, executive orders, decrees, instructions, rules, and regulations, contrary to or inconsistent with any provisions of this Act, are repealed or amended accordingly.

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

Approved,