



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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 360



Introduced by Representative Crispin Diego “Ping” D. Remulla

AN ACT
MANDATING THE INSTALLATION OF GRAY WATER TREATMENT
SYSTEMS/FACILITIES IN BUILDINGS AND IMPOSING PENALTIES FOR
VIOLATION THEREOF

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is running dry. By 2040, the country is projected to face severe water stress if no intervention is made. Metro Manila alone loses around 1,000 million liters of water daily, much of it from inefficient usage and untreated wastewater. However, policy without practice will not solve a problem of this scale. We must act decisively and sustainably.

In 2022, households spent PHP 59.37 billion on water, according to the Philippine Statistics Authority. This is followed by the mining, manufacturing, and construction sectors, which collectively spent PHP 47.12 billion, and the services sector, which spent PHP 38.32 billion. These figures highlight the growing financial and operational burden of water supply on both domestic and industrial users.

In the same year, total freshwater withdrawals rose to 91.0 billion cubic meters from 89.0 billion cubic meters in 2021. The country's water stress level, defined as the proportion of freshwater withdrawal to available freshwater resources, also increased from 27.2% to 27.8%, remaining within the “low-level stress” classification of 25–50%. While still manageable, this trend signals rising pressure on national water reserves.

This bill mandates the installation of gray water treatment systems in all new buildings, and gradually in existing ones. Gray water (wastewater from sinks, showers, and laundries) accounts for up to 60% of household water use and can be safely reused for flushing toilets, irrigation, and other non-potable purposes. Instead of going to waste, this water can reduce demand on our freshwater reserves and cut wastewater discharge into rivers and seas.

This measure is a step toward achieving climate resilience, driving infrastructure innovation, and promoting sustainable urban development. It encourages both private sector compliance and public accountability, contributing to a more water-secure future.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Remulla', with a stylized flourish at the end.

CRISPIN DIEGO “PING” D. REMULLA



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

1 **SECTION. 1. Title.** This Act shall be known as the “Gray Water Treatment Act.”

2 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** It is hereby declared the policy of the State to conserve,
3 to the fullest extent possible, its water resources, by proactively promoting the utilization of
4 alternative sources of water. In line with this, the State shall ensure that all buildings within its
5 territory are properly equipped with treatment facilities/systems that will enable them to
6 efficiently maximize the use of the water sources at their disposal.

7 **SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.** - As used in this Act, the following terms shall mean:

8 (a) “Gray water” - refers to wastewater which, though not potable, is understood as
9 not pathologically infectious and is not contaminated with fecal matter, which
10 may be used for watering plants, laundry, flushing toilets, cleaning, and other
11 uses not related to human consumption;

12 (b) “Gray water treatment system” - refers to any appliance, equipment, or
13 combination thereof designed to remove pathogens from gray water and render
14 the same suitable for reuse on-site in toilets, urinals, or subterranean irrigation
15 systems;

16 (c) “Blackwater” - wastewater that has been contaminated with fecal matter; and

(d) "Building" - Any structure built for the support, shelter, or enclosure of persons, animals, chattels, or property of any kind.

SEC. 4. Installation of Gray Water Treatment Systems in All Buildings. - Within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act, every owner of a building with a floor area of at least one thousand (1,000) square meters shall install therein a gray water treatment system with sufficient capacity to treat all gray water produced in the said building.

Upon request by an owner of a building with a floor area of less than one thousand (1,000) square meters, the water utility servicing such building shall install therein a gray water treatment system with a capacity sufficient to treat all of the gray water produced in the said building. The costs of the system and its installation shall be borne by the owner of the building and, at the option of the building owner, may be repaid in installments to be included in the monthly bill; *Provided* that each installment shall not exceed more than ten percent (10%) of the monthly bill.

SEC. 5. Inclusion of a Gray Water System in Building Plans and Specifications. - Upon effectivity of this Act, no building with a floor area of at least one thousand (1,000.00) square meters shall be permitted for construction unless the plans and specifications therefor provide for a gray water system with a capacity sufficient to treat all gray water produced in the contemplated building. Should the completed building fail to comply with such plans and specifications, the same shall not be permitted for occupancy and/or operation.

SEC. 6. Reuse of Gray Water. - Treated gray water shall not be reused for human consumption or for any purpose other than on-site in toilets, urinals, and subterranean irrigation.

SEC. 7. Storage and Commingling with Other Water Sources. - Gray water, whether treated or untreated shall not be commingled with potable sources of water fit for human consumption. For entities who collect rainwater, only treated gray water may be commingled with such rainwater subject to rules and regulations of appropriate government agencies.

SEC. 8. Implementation and Oversight. - The implementation and oversight of this Act, including the enforcement of provisions related to the installation and maintenance of gray water treatment systems and facilities in buildings, shall be the responsibility of the Water Resource Management Office under the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

The Water Resource Management Office shall:

(a) Develop and issue guidelines and standards for the installation, operation, and maintenance of gray water treatment systems in buildings.

1 (b) Conduct inspections to ensure compliance with this Act and its implementing
2 rules and regulations.

3 **SEC. 9. Penal Provisions.** - The penalty of six (6) months and one (1) day to one (1)
4 year imprisonment; a fine of not less than one hundred thousand pesos (Php 100,000.00), but
5 not more than three hundred thousand pesos (Php 300,000.00); or both, at the discretion of the
6 court, shall be imposed upon:

7 (a) Any owner of a building who fails to install a gray water system, as provided
8 for under the first paragraph of Section 4 of this Act. In case the owner is a
9 partnership or a corporation, the penalty shall be imposed upon the responsible
10 partners or members of the board;

11 (b) The proprietor, responsible partners, or responsible members of the board of
12 water utilities which shall refuse to install a gray water system, as provided for
13 under the second paragraph of Section 4 of this Act;

14 (c) Any government officer or employee who shall permit the building or
15 occupancy of any building in violation of Section 5 of this Act; and

16 (d) Any person who stores and reuses gray water in violation of Sections 6 and 7 of
17 this Act.

18 **SEC. 10. Separability Clause.** – If any part, section or provision of this Act is held
19 invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and
20 effect.

21 **SEC. 11. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts
22 thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

23 **SEC. 12. Effectivity Clause.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
24 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,