

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3103



Introduced by: REPRESENTATIVE ARNULF BRYAN “ARNIE” B. FUENTEBELLA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Sec. 18 of the Art. II of the 1987 Philippine Constitution states that:

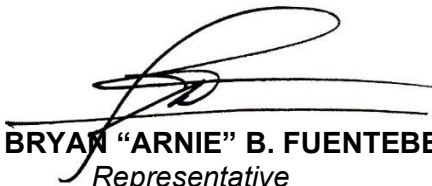
“Section 18. The State affirms labor as a primary social economic force. It shall protect the rights of workers and promote their welfare”

This bill seeks to acknowledge the pernicious effects of climate change on our workforce, which has suffered rising temperatures, heavy rains, and erratic weather patterns, all of which affects various aspects of labor: their physical wellness, their travel to work, and the performance of professional duties, among others. Though the Department of Labor and Employment has done a commendable job of addressing these issues piecemeal through labor advisories, hazards wrought by climate change have yet to be realized in national legislation.

Heat stress, for example, is now a worldwide phenomenon which causes undesirable physiological effects, such as heat strokes, exhaustion, cardiovascular diseases, kidney diseases, and respiratory conditions. This especially affects sectors the economic activities of which are conducted outside airconditioned areas, which include farming, fishing, and construction work. Productivity is also affected, which affects the country’s economy.

By expressly identifying climate change as a real risk to our workforce, employers – the government included – can make the necessary adjustments to keep the workplace safe for employees. Through this legislation, I seek to fully recognize the effects of climate change vis-à-vis labor and to adopt data-driven solutions for subsequent policies to alleviate the plight of the Filipino worker.

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


ARNULF BRYAN “ARNIE” B. FUENTEBELLA
Representative
Fourth District, Camarines Sur

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Introduced by: **REPRESENTATIVE ARNULF BRYAN “ARNIE” B. FUENTEBELLA**

AN ACT MANDATING THE ADOPTION OF CLIMATE-ADAPTIVE OCCUPATIONAL HEALTH MEASURES, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 169 OF PRESIDENTIAL DECREE NO. 442 OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE LABOR CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES, AS AMENDED

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

SECTION 1. Section 169 of Presidential Decree No. 442 is hereby amended to read as follows:

“Section 169. Research. – It shall be the responsibility of the Department of Labor and Employment to conduct continuing studies and research to develop innovative methods, techniques and approaches for dealing with occupational safety and health problems; to discover latent diseases **and emerging hazards** by establishing causal connections between diseases and work in **evolving environmental and climatic conditions; to adopt a data-driven approach in the adoption of occupational safety and health policies**; and to develop **adaptive** medical and **occupational** criteria which will assure insofar as practicable that no employee will suffer impairment or diminution in health, functional capacity, or life expectancy as a result of his work and working conditions.”

SECTION 2. The Department of Labor and Employment, in coordination with the Department of Health, the Climate Change Commission, and the Department of the Interior and Local Government, shall promulgate the rules and regulations to implement this act within sixty (60) days from its effectivity.

SECTION 3. If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, other parts of provisions not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 4. All laws, executive orders, issuances, and rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved.