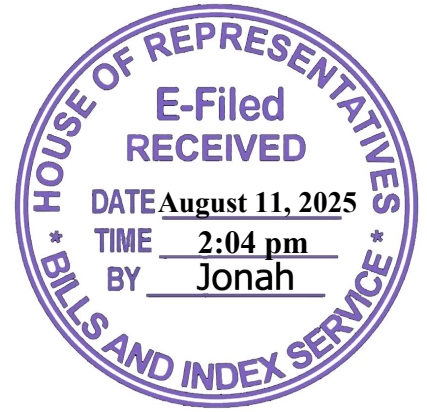


REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3442



Introduced by **HONORABLE RAMON JOLO B. REVILLA III,**
HONORABLE LANI MERCADO-REVILLA, and
HONORABLE BRYAN B. REVILLA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

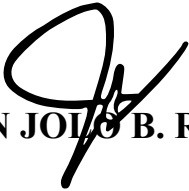
This bill seeks to improve the quality of beaches and other coastal recreation water areas throughout the country to protect our natural resources, as well as the safety of both locals and tourists. It shall mandate to adopt a consistent criteria that would enhance public health and safety.

The Philippines is globally recognized with an almost unmatched natural beauty when it comes to premier beach destinations. In the recent 2025 list by the World's 50 Best Beaches, two (2) of the country's beaches were included, namely — Entalula Beach in El Nido, Palawan; and Bon Bon Beach in Romblon. The picturesque limestone cliffs and crystal-clear of Entalula Beach and the quiet charm of Bon Bon Beach are just examples of the country's world-class island offerings.

While we take pride in our world-class beaches as it attracts million of tourists per year, such influx to a relatively small area has dire environmental impacts. Tourists contribute to pollution and waste products that severely affect water quality.

As such, the proposed bill shall ensure that public coastal recreation water and beaches throughout the country is safe for public use.

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



RAMON JOLO B. REVILLA III



LANI MERCADO-REVILLA



BRYAN B. REVILLA

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**AN ACT TO IMPROVE THE QUALITY OF BEACHES AND COASTAL
RECREATION WATER**

*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 “Beaches
2 Environmental Assessment and Coastal Health (BEACH) Act”.

3 **SEC. 2. *Purposes.*** — The purpose of this Act is to require uniform criteria
4 and procedures for testing, monitoring, and notifying users of public coastal
5 recreation waters and beaches:

6 (a) To protect public safety; and

7 (b) To improve environmental quality.

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

1 (a) Coastal recreation water refers to adjacent to public beaches in marine
2 coastal waters (including base, lagoon mouths, and coastal estuaries within
3 the tidal zone), used by the public for –

4 (1) Swimming;

5 (2) Bathing;

6 (3) Surfing; or

7 (4) Other similar body contact purposes.

8 (b) Floatable materials refer to any foreign matter that may float or remain
9 suspended in water, including —

10 (1) Plastic;

11 (2) Aluminum cans;

12 (3) Wood;

13 (4) Paper products; and

14 (5) Fishing gear.

15 **SEC. 4. *Adoption of Coastal Recreational Water Quality Criteria.*** — The
16 Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), herein
17 referred to as the “Secretary” shall adopt water quality criteria for coastal recreation
18 water. *Further*, That the water quality criteria described in paragraph (A) shall be
19 developed and promulgated in accordance with existing environmental laws and
20 policies.

21 **SEC. 5. *Water Quality Criteria Revision.*** — The Secretary, including local
22 health officials, and competent stakeholders, shall conduct studies to provide new
23 information for use in developing the following:

24 (a) A more complete list of potential human health risks for inhalation,
25 ingestion, or body contact with coastal recreation water, including effects
26 on the upper respiratory system;

- (b) Appropriate and effective indicators for improving direct detection of the presence of pathogens, found harmful to human health in coastal recreational water;
- (c) Appropriate, accurate, and expeditious methods (including predictive models) for detecting the presence of pathogens in coastal recreation water that are harmful to human health;
- (d) Guidance for the application of the criteria issued under subsection (2) to account for the diversity of geographic and aquatic conditions throughout the country;
- (e) Issue revised water quality criteria for pathogens in coastal recreation water that are harmful to human health, including a revised list of indicators and testing methods; and
- (f) Review and revise the water quality criteria.

SEC. 6. Coastal Beach Water Quality Monitoring. — The DENR shall promulgate regulations requiring monitoring of public coastal recreation waters and beaches for compliance with applicable water quality criteria and maintenance of public safety. *Further,* That the monitoring requirements established hereof, at a minimum, shall be available monitoring methods to be used and the frequency and location of monitoring based on the following:

- (a) The periods of recreational use of coastal recreation water and beaches;
- (b) The extent and degree of recreational use during the periods described herein;
- (c) The proximity of coastal recreation water to known or identified point and non-point sources of pollution; and
- (d) The relationship between the use of public recreation water and beaches to natural calamities such as but not limited to, typhoons, and storm surges.

1 *Further provided*, That the DENR shall employ the following methods:

2 (a) Detecting levels of pathogens that are harmful to human health; and

3 (b) Identifying short-term increases in pathogens that are harmful to human
4 health and coastal recreation water, including the relationship of short-term
5 increases in pathogens to natural calamities.

6 *Further however*, That the conditions and procedures under which discrete
7 areas of coastal recreation water may be exempted by the Secretary from the
8 requirements if it does not impair compliance with the applicable water
9 quality criteria from such water and/or compromise public safety.

10 Regulations promulgated shall require provinces to provide notification of a
11 failure or the likelihood of a failure to meet applicable water quality criteria for
12 provincial coastal regulation in water to the Secretary, the Local Government Units
13 (LGUs), and the general public. *Further*, That such notifications shall require the
14 following:

15 (a) The prompt communication of occurrence, nature, extend, and location of,
16 and substances, including pathogens, involved in, a failure or immediate
17 likelihood of a failure to meet water quality criteria, to a designated official
18 of a local government having jurisdiction over land adjoining the coastal
19 recreation water for which the failure or imminent failure to meet water
20 quality criteria is identified; and

21 (b) The posting of signs, during the period in which water quality criteria are
22 not met continues, that are sufficient to give notice to the public such as a
23 failure to meet applicable water quality criteria for the water and the
24 potential risks associated with water contact activities in the water.

1 **SEC. 7. *Review and Revision of Regulations.*** — The Secretary shall review,
2 periodically but not less than five (5) years, and make necessary revisions to
3 regulations promulgated under this Section.

4 **SEC. 8. *Implementation.*** — Each province shall implement a monitoring and
5 notification program that conforms to the regulations promulgated under subsections
6 (1) and (2). *Further*, That each province shall revise the program established
7 hereunder to incorporate such revision/s.

8 **SEC. 9. *Delegation of Responsibility to Local Governments.*** — The
9 Secretary shall issue guidelines on core performance measures for testing,
10 monitoring, and notification under this Section. It shall also delegate the testing,
11 monitoring, and notification programs to local government authorities. *Further*, That
12 if a responsibility is delegated to a local government authority, resources such as but
13 not limited to, grants shall be made available in a manner consistent of this Act.

14 **SEC. 10. *Technical Assistance to Floatable Materials Monitoring.*** — The
15 Secretary shall provide technical assistance for uniform assessment and monitoring
16 procedures for floatable materials in coastal recreation water and specify the
17 conditions under which the presence of floatable materials that constitute a threat to
18 public health and safety.

19 **SEC. 11. *Occurrence Database.*** — The Secretary shall establish, indeed, and
20 make available to the public, by electronic and other a National Coastal Recreation
21 Water Pollution Occurrence Database and a listing of communities conforming with
22 the regulations promulgated hereof.

23 **SEC. 12. *Report to Congress.*** — Not later than four (4) years, the Secretary
24 shall submit to Congress a report that contains recommendations concerning the
25 need for additional water quality criteria and other actions that are necessary to

1 improve the quality of coastal creation water and an evaluation of efforts to
2 implement this Act.

3 **SEC. 13. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** — Within ninety (90) days
4 following the effectivity of this Act, the DENR, in consultation with other
5 government agencies and stakeholders, shall promulgate the necessary
6 implementing rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

7 **SEC. 14. *Separability Clause.*** — If any provision of this Act shall be declared
8 unconstitutional or Invalid, the other provisions not affected shall remain in full force
9 and effect.

10 **SEC. 15. *Repealing Clause.*** — All laws, presidential decrees, executive
11 orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are Inconsistent with or contrary
12 to the provisions of this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

13 **SEC. 16. *Effectivity.*** — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
14 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,