

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3444



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

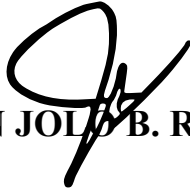
EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill intends to require the installation of gray water treatment systems in buildings to promote the utilization of alternative sources of water. It shall mandate every building owner with 1,000 square meters of floor area to a gray water treatment system with sufficient capacity to treat all gray water produced in the said building.

Greywater, also known as sullage, refers to untreated household wastewater generated from sources such as sinks, showers, baths, washing machines, and dishwashers. It can be reused onsite for various non-potable purposes such as toilet flushing, landscape, or crop irrigation. In promoting its usage, we can greatly reduce the demand for freshwater thus conserving our water supply systems. Moreover, reusing greywater holds significant economic benefits for consumers since it will lead to cost savings and less strain on water resources.

Section 16, Article II of the 1987 Constitution provides that the “*State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accordance with the rhythm and harmony of nature.*” It is, therefore, fervent to emphasize the utilization of alternative sources of water such as greywater to reduce freshwater demand and help in water conservation.

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
MANDATING THE INSTALLATION OF GRAY WATER TREATMENT
SYSTEMS IN BUILDINGS AND IMPOSING PENALTIES FOR
VIOLATIONS THEREOF

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

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

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

1 **SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.** – As used in this Act, the following terms shall
2 mean:

3
4 (a) **Gray water** refers to wastewater which, though not potable, is understood
5 as not pathologically infectious and is not contaminated with fecal matter,
6 which may be used for watering plants, laundry, flushing toilets, cleaning,
7 and other uses not related to human consumption;

8
9 (b) **Gray water treatment system** refers to any appliance, equipment, or
10 combination thereof designed to remove pathogens from gray water and
11 render the same suitable for reuse on-site in toilets, urinals, or subterranean
12 irrigation system;

13
14 (c) **Blackwater** refers to wastewater that has been contaminated with fecal
15 matter; and

16
17 (d) **Building** refers to any structure for the support, shelter, or enclosure, as
18 defined by Republic Act No. 6541, otherwise known as the “National
19 Building Code of the Philippines,” as amended, of persons, animals,
20 chattels, or property of any kind.

21
22 **SEC. 4. Installation of Gray Water Treatment Systems in All Buildings.** –
23 Within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act, every owner of a building with
24 a floor area of at least One thousand (1,000) square meters shall install a gray water
25 treatment system with sufficient capacity to treat all gray water produced in the said
26 building.

1 Upon request by an owner of a building with a floor area of less than One
2 thousand (1,000) square meters, the water utility servicing such building shall install
3 therein a gray water treatment system with a capacity sufficient to treat all of the
4 gray water produced in the said building. The costs of the system and its installation
5 shall be borne by the owner of the building and, at the option of the building owner,
6 may be repaid in installments to be included in the monthly bill; *Provided however,*
7 That each installment shall not exceed more than Ten per centum (10%) of the
8 monthly bill.

9
10 **SEC. 5. *Inclusion of a Gray Water System in Building Plans and***
11 ***Specifications.*** – Upon effectivity of this Act, no building with a floor area of at least
12 One thousand (1,000) square meters shall be permitted for construction unless the
13 plans and specifications therefor provide for a gray water system with a capacity
14 sufficient to treat all gray water produced in the contemplated building. Should the
15 completed building fail to comply with such plans and specifications, the same shall
16 not be permitted for occupancy and/or operation.

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

20
21 **SEC. 7. *Storage and Commingling with Other Water Sources.*** – Gray water,
22 whether treated or untreated shall not be commingled with potable sources of water
23 fir for human consumption. For entities who collect rainwater, only treated gray
24 water may be commingled with such rainwater subject to rules and regulations of
25 appropriate government agencies.

1 **SEC. 8. *Implementation and Oversight.*** – The implementation and oversight
2 of this Act, including the enforcement of provisions related to the installation and
3 maintenance of gray water treatment systems and facilities in buildings, shall be the
4 responsibility of the Water Resource Management Office (WRMO) under the
5 Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR). *Further*, That the
6 WRMO shall:

7
8 (1) Develop and issue guidelines and standards for the installation, operation,
9 and maintenance of gray water treatment system in buildings; and

10
11 (2) Conduct inspections to ensure compliance with this Act and its
12 implementing rules and regulations.

13
14 **SEC. 9. *Penalty Provisions.*** – ~~[The penalty of six (6) months and one (1) day~~
15 ~~to one (1) year imprisonment;]~~ A fine of not less than ~~[Fifty thousand pesos~~
16 ~~(P50,000.00)]~~ One hundred thousand pesos, but not more than ~~[One hundred~~
17 ~~thousand pesos (P100,000.00)]~~ Five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000.00), at the
18 discretion of the court shall be imposed upon:

19
20 (a) Any owner of a building who fails to install a gray water system, as
21 provided for under the first paragraph of Section 4 of this Act. In
22 case the owner is a partnership or a corporation, the penalty shall be
23 imposed upon the responsible partners or members of the board;

24
25 (b) The proprietor, responsible partners, or responsible members of the
26 board of water utilities which shall refuse to install a gray water

1 system, as provided for under the second paragraph of Section 4
2 hereof;

3 (c) Any government official or employee who shall permit the building
4 or occupancy of any building in violation of Section 5 hereof; and

5
6 (d) Any person who stores and reuses gray water in violation of
7 Sections 6 and 7 of this Act.
8

9 **SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.*** – If any provision or part of this Act is declared
10 invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining provisions or parts of this act shall remain
11 in full force and effect, and the application of such provision to other persons or
12 circumstances shall not be affected.

13
14 **SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, orders, issuances, rules, and
15 regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby
16 repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,