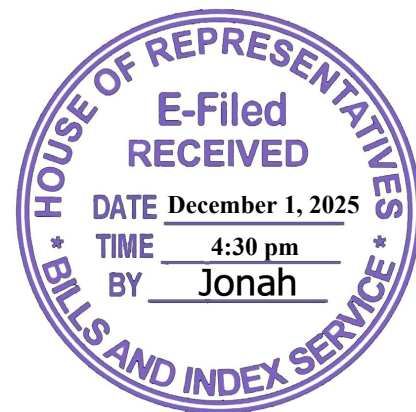


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. 6509



Introduced by Representative **JESUS R. MARQUEZ**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines generates an estimated 4.8 million tons of plastic waste every year, of which a third leaks into the open environment, clogging waterways, polluting coastal ecosystems, and contributing to flooding and marine degradation. According to the 2023 World Bank “Plastic Circularity Opportunities” Report, the country ranks among the top plastic polluters of the world’s oceans, driven primarily by the widespread use of single-use plastics, particularly plastic bags which are used for a few minutes but persist in the environment for hundreds of years.

Data from the DENR-EMB further reveals that single-use plastics account for 35% of all collected residual waste, a proportion that has continued to rise despite local government bans and voluntary corporate initiatives. While many LGUs have enacted ordinances restricting plastic bag distribution, the lack of a national fiscal disincentive has limited the effectiveness and uniformity of these measures. International experience shows that pricing mechanisms are among the most powerful tools for changing consumption behavior: countries such as Ireland, Denmark, South Africa, and Hong Kong recorded dramatic declines—up to 90%—in plastic bag use after imposing excise taxes or levies.

Behavioral economics explains this phenomenon through the concept of “price salience.” When consumers are made to shoulder even a minimal but visible cost for single-use bags, they shift toward reusable alternatives. This shift not only reduces plastic consumption at the source but also builds long-term environmental consciousness, creating a cultural norm around waste reduction. Evidence likewise shows that businesses adjust quickly and positively to such measures, integrating reusable and sustainable packaging systems into their operations.

In the Philippines, introducing an excise tax on single-use plastic bags is a practical, effective, and urgently needed policy intervention. Apart from reducing overall demand, the measure will generate revenue that can support solid waste management, circular economy initiatives, recycling industries, and local government compliance with Republic Act No. 9003, the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act.

This bill therefore seeks to amend Section 288 and introduce a new Section 150-C in the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended, to impose an excise tax

on single-use plastic bags. The measure aims to: Reduce the production, distribution, and consumption of single-use plastics through a clear price signal; Curb harmful wasteful behavior, promoting more responsible and sustainable consumer habits; Align the Philippines with global best practices in reducing plastic pollution and promoting circularity; and Provide fiscal support for national and local initiatives to strengthen waste management systems.

Plastic pollution is a national development issue, not merely an environmental one. It undermines public health, increases disaster vulnerability by obstructing drainage systems, burdens LGUs with escalating waste disposal costs, and threatens the tourism and fisheries sectors—critical pillars of our economy.

By adopting a taxation framework for single-use plastic bags, we take a decisive step toward protecting our communities, safeguarding our ecosystems, and fostering a culture of sustainability for future generations.

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



REP. JESUS “Jess” R. MARQUEZ

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 6509

Introduced by Representative **JESUS R. MARQUEZ**

AN ACT
IMPOSING EXCISE TAX ON SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BAGS, AMENDING
FOR THE PURPOSE SECTION 288 AND ADDING A NEW SECTION 150-C
IN THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED

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 “Single-Use Plastic
2 Bags Tax Act.”
3

4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
5 protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in
6 accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature through the proper exercise of its
7 power of taxation.
8

9 **SEC. 3.** A new section designated as Section 150-C of the National Internal
10 Revenue Code of 1997, as amended, is hereby added to read as follows:
11

12 **“SEC. 150-C. SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BAGS. –**
13

14 **(a) RATE AND BASE OF TAX. – THERE SHALL BE LEVIED,**
15 **ASSESSED, AND COLLECTED AN EXCISE TAX IN THE AMOUNT OF**
16 **ONE HUNDRED PESOS (PHP100.00) FOR EVERY KILOGRAM OF**
17 **SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BAG REMOVED FROM THE PLACE OF**
18 **PRODUCTION OR RELEASED FROM THE CUSTODY OF THE**
19 **BUREAU OF CUSTOMS.**
20

21 **THE RATE OF TAX IMPOSED UNDER THIS SUBSECTION**
22 **SHALL BE INCREASED BY FOUR PERCENT (4%) EVERY YEAR,**
23 **EFFECTIVE ON JANUARY 1, 2026, THROUGH REVENUE**
24 **REGULATIONS ISSUED BY THE SECRETARY OF FINANCE. SINGLE-**
25 **USE PLASTIC BAGS SHALL REFER TO SECONDARY LEVEL**
26 **PLASTICS MADE OF SYNTHETIC OR SEMISYNTHETIC ORGANIC**
27 **POLYMER, SUCH AS “ICE”, “LABO” OR “SANDO” BAGS, WITH OR**

28 WITHOUT HANDLE, USED AS PACKAGING FOR GOODS OR
29 PRODUCTS.
30

31 (b) FILING OF RETURN AND PAYMENT OF EXCISE TAX ON
32 SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BAGS. – THE PROVISIONS OF SECTIONS 130
33 AND 131 OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997,
34 AS AMENDED, ON THE FILING OF RETURN AND PAYMENT OF
35 EXCISE TAX SHALL APPLY.
36

37 (c) NON-PAYMENT OF EXCISE TAX. – NON-PAYMENT OF
38 THE EXCISE TAX IMPOSED UNDER THIS ACT SHALL BE SUBJECT
39 TO THE PERTINENT PROVISIONS UNDER TITLES VII AND X OF
40 THE NATIONAL INTERNAL REVENUE CODE OF 1997, AS AMENDED,
41 REGARDING COLLECTION OF UNPAID TAXES AND IMPOSITION
42 OF CORRESPONDING FINES, SURCHARGES, PENALTIES, AND
43 IMPRISONMENT OR CLOSURE OF BUSINESS.”
44

45 **SEC. 4.** Section 288 of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as amended,
46 is hereby further amended to read as follows:
47

48 "SEC. 288. Disposition of Incremental AND OTHER Revenues. –

49 (A) xxx

50 (B) xxx

51 (C) xxx

52 (D) xxx

53 (E) xxx

54 (F) xxx

55 (G) xxx
56

57 (H) DISPOSITION OF INCREMENTAL REVENUES FROM THE
58 EXCISE TAX ON SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BAGS. –
59

60 THE INCREMENTAL REVENUES FROM THE IMPOSITION OF
61 THE EXCISE TAX ON SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BAGS SHALL BE
62 ALLOCATED TO PROGRAMS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF
63 ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES FOR THE
64 IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9003, OTHERWISE
65 KNOWN AS THE 'ECOLOGICAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT ACT
66 OF 2000 IN MUNICIPALITIES.”
67

68 **SEC. 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within sixty (60) days
69 from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of Finance shall, upon the
70 recommendation of the Commissioners of the Bureau of Internal Revenue and the
71 Bureau of Customs and, in consultation with the Department of Environment and
72 Natural Resources, issue and promulgate rules and regulations for the effective
73 implementation of this Act.
74

75 **SEC. 6. Separability Clause.** – If any provision of this Act is declared invalid
76 or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force
77 and effect.
78

79 **SEC. 7. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations
80 or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified
81 accordingly.
82

83 **SEC. 8. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
84 publication in at least one (1) newspaper of general circulation.
85

86 *Approved,*