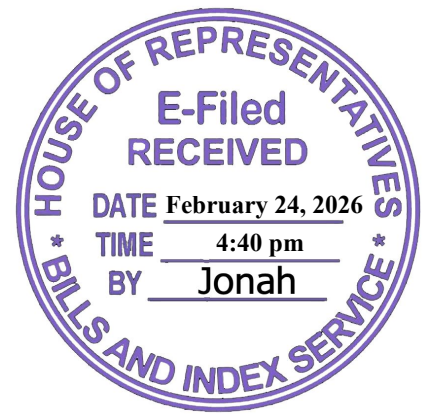


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session
House Bill No. **8064**



Introduced by: Congressman **BIENVENIDO M. ABANTE, JR.**

AN ACT
STRENGTHENING ANTI-LITTERING MEASURES, PROVIDING
CORRECTIVE WORK ORDERS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The problem is highlighted each time floodwaters subside, or after typhoons. Tons of garbage wash up on the shores around Manila Bay, and litter Roxas Boulevard and the surrounding roads. Similar scenes are seen across Metro Manila's flood-prone areas.

Not just plastic products, but all sorts of materials discarded indiscriminately accumulate and clog drainage systems, polluting waterways: tin cans, glass containers, paper, styrofoam and wood products, and discarded appliances. Drains are clogged even by the cigarette butts dropped anywhere, and the candy wrappers and used tissue paper tossed out the windows of motor vehicles.¹ National policy already prohibits littering, and even the act of "causing or permitting the same,"² Yet enforcement remains weak where offenders are hard to identify or apprehend.

This bill strengthens deterrence through a clear, graduated regime: swift administrative citation for minor violations, and court prosecution for aggravated cases. It squarely addresses two recurring enforcement gaps: Elevated littering, where waste can be traced to a unit but the thrower often evades accountability; and vehicle-related littering, where the act occurs in transit and identification is difficult. These special rules are crafted to be evidence-based, rebuttable, and consistent with due process.

The measure also emphasizes correction rather than just punishment. For aggravated cases, it authorizes Corrective Work Orders, sanitation-related community service under court supervision, so offenders repay the community through visible, restorative work. This is consistent with the policy of community

¹ Philippine Star Editorial, "Waste management too," The Philippine Star, August 26, 2025, available at: <https://www.philstar.com/opinion/2025/08/26/2468056/editorial-waste-management-too>.

² Republic Act No. 9003.

service as a court-managed corrective measure that promotes civic consciousness and public service.³

The immediate passage of this bill is respectfully sought.



BIENVENIDO M. ABANTE, JR.

³ Peña V. People Of The Philippines G.R. No. 261807 August 14, 2024.

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. — This Act shall be known as the "**Anti-Littering and Corrective Work Order Act of 2026.**"

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. — It is the policy of the State to protect public health and the environment by preventing littering and improper disposal of waste; strengthening deterrence through proportionate and graduated penalties; and promoting discipline and civic responsibility through corrective work orders and community-based sanitation programs.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. — As used in this Act:

(a) *Littering* refers to the act of throwing, dropping, scattering, dumping, placing, leaving, or depositing any waste matter in any public place or common area, or causing or permitting the same, except when placed inside an appropriate waste receptacle or in accordance with authorized waste collection procedures.

(b) *Waste matter* refers to any discarded material, whether solid or semi-solid, regardless of size, weight, or biodegradability, that is capable of being left or deposited in places covered by this Act.

(c) *Public places* include, but are not limited to, roads, sidewalks, parks, plazas, waterways, canals, esteros, beaches, terminals, public markets, government premises, and other places open to or commonly used by the public.

(d) *Common area* includes hallways, stairways, corridors, lobbies, elevators, rooftops, parking areas, and similar shared spaces of condominiums, apartments, dormitories, commercial buildings, and other multi-unit premises.

(e) *Elevated littering* refers to littering committed by throwing, dropping, or allowing waste to fall from any building, structure, or elevated platform (including windows, balconies, roofs, corridors, and similar openings), whether intentional, reckless, or negligent, causing waste to land in any public place, common area, or another person's premises.

(f) *Corrective Work Order (CWO)* refers to a court-imposed order requiring an offender to perform sanitation-related community service, including litter-picking, sweeping, canal cleaning, or similar work, for a specified number of hours, under supervision.

(g) *Vehicle-related littering* refers to the throwing, dropping, or allowing the discharge of any waste matter from a moving or stationary vehicle.

SEC. 4. Prohibited Acts. — The following acts are prohibited:

(a) Littering in any public place or common area;

(b) Improper receptacle disposal, including placing waste on top of, beside, outside, or wedged into railings/ledges near a receptacle, or in any manner that results in or is likely to result in scattering, overflow, falling, or exposure of waste, when a waste receptacle is available and usable;

(c) Vehicle-related littering, whether from a private or public vehicle, stationary or moving;

(d) Elevated littering, as defined in this Act;

(e) Knowingly causing or permitting littering within premises open to the public by an owner, operator, manager, or person in charge, when such person has the authority and reasonable opportunity to prevent or stop the prohibited act.

SEC. 5. Prohibited Waste. — For avoidance of doubt, "waste matter" and "litter" under this Act include, but are not limited to, the following:

(a) Cigarette-related waste: cigarette butts, cigarette ashes, empty cigarette packs/packaging, discarded matches, discarded lighters;

(b) Small litter: tissue paper, napkins, receipts, candy/snack wrappers, plastic packaging, paper scraps;

(c) Food and beverage waste: leftover food, fruit peels, chewing gum, cups, straws, lids, food containers, styrofoam boxes;

(d) Containers and packaging: plastic bottles, aluminum cans, glass bottles, take-away containers, bubble wraps, plastic bags;

(e) Electronic waste (e-waste): computers, mobile phones, televisions, and household appliances.

(f) Household and personal waste: masks, wet wipes, cotton buds, sanitary waste, tissues used for cleaning;

(g) Construction or bulky waste: wood pieces, bricks, tiles, metal scraps, furniture parts.

Construction or bulky waste may be treated as an aggravated circumstance under Section 9 of this Act when it poses heightened danger, obstruction, or cleanup cost.

SEC. 6. *No "Harmless," "Small," or "Biodegradable" Exception. —*

(a) Size is irrelevant. — No item shall be considered exempt from this Act by reason alone of its small size.

(b) Biodegradability is not a defense. — No item shall be considered exempt from this Act by reason alone that it is biodegradable, including leaves, fruit peels, or similar matter, when deposited or left in a manner prohibited by this Act.

SEC. 7. *Administrative Citation for Minor Littering.*

(a) Administrative enforcement. — For minor littering and improper receptacle disposal, an authorized enforcement officer may issue an administrative citation ticket requiring payment of a fine or appearance to contest the citation.

(b) Authorized enforcement officers. — The following may be designated as enforcement officers for purposes of this Act:

- (i) local environmental and sanitation officers;
- (ii) barangay tanods or barangay public safety officers, if duly deputized by the LGU through ordinance; and
- (iii) other officers as may be authorized by law or ordinance, subject to training requirements prescribed in the implementing rules.

(c) Administrative fine amounts. — Unless a higher penalty is warranted under Section 8:

- (1) First offense: Two thousand pesos (₱2,000.00);
- (2) Second offense: Four thousand pesos (₱4,000.00);
- (3) Third offense: Ten thousand pesos (₱10,000.00).

(d) Contents of citation ticket. — The citation ticket shall state the act complained of, the date, time, and place; the identity of the cited person if available; the fine; the period to pay; and the procedure to contest.

(e) Period to pay, contest, or hearing. — The cited person shall have not less than seven (7) days from receipt to pay or to contest. If contested, the LGU shall conduct a summary administrative hearing, with notice and an opportunity to be heard, and shall render a written resolution.

(f) Referral upon non-payment; enforcement. — If the cited person

- (i) fails to pay within the prescribed period without contest, or
- (ii) loses the contest and fails to pay within the period stated in the resolution, the LGU may enforce collection through lawful means and/or file the appropriate complaint in accordance with applicable laws and rules.

SEC. 8. *Aggravated Cases; Criminal Prosecution; Corrective Work Order.* —

(a) Aggravated cases. — The following acts shall constitute aggravated violations and shall be prosecuted as criminal offenses under this Act, without prejudice to liability under other applicable laws:

- (i) Elevated littering;
- (ii) Vehicle-related littering that endangers persons or causes an accident;
- (iii) Disposal of construction, demolition, or bulky waste in public places or other areas not designated for such waste;
- (iv) Repeated commission of any violation under this Act after three (3) prior final administrative dispositions against the same offender; or
- (v) Littering that results in substantial obstruction of drainage, waterways, sidewalks, or public access.

(b) Institution of criminal action; proper court. — Criminal actions for aggravated violations under this Act shall be instituted and tried in the proper court with jurisdiction, in accordance with the Rules of Court and applicable special rules.

(c) Court penalties. — Upon conviction, the court may impose a fine of up to Fifty Thousand Pesos (₱50,000.00) and/or such other penalties as may be allowed under applicable law. The court may likewise order the offender to perform corrective work or such other community-based measures as may be authorized under this Act and the implementing rules.

(c) Corrective Work Order (CWO). — In addition to fines and other penalties, the court may order the offender to render sanitation-related community service as a Corrective Work Order (CWO), under such terms as the court shall determine, taking

into account the gravity of the offense and the circumstances of the case. The court shall issue a written order specifying:

- (i) the number of hours to be worked, which shall be not less than three (3) hours and not more than twelve (12) hours, and
- (ii) the period within which to complete the service. The CWO shall be under the supervision of a probation officer, in coordination with the LGU or a designated implementing unit where the service will be performed.

(d) Failure to comply with CWO. — If the offender unjustifiably fails to comply with the terms of the CWO, the court may, after notice and hearing, revoke the CWO and order the service of the corresponding penalty in accordance with law, and/or impose such other sanctions as may be proper under the Rules of Court.

SEC. 10. *Elevated Littering: Duty of Unit Owner/Occupier; Administrative Presumption.* —

(a) Duty to prevent. — The unit owner, lessee, or lawful occupant who has actual possession or control of a unit shall exercise reasonable diligence to prevent elevated littering originating from the unit, including by adopting reasonable preventive measures appropriate to the unit's use and configuration, as may be further specified in the implementing rules.

(b) Rebuttable administrative presumption. — For purposes of issuance and enforcement of an administrative citation under this Act, where waste is shown by substantial evidence to have originated from a particular unit, there shall be a rebuttable presumption that the lawful occupant is responsible, unless the occupant shows that reasonable preventive measures were in place and that another identifiable person committed the act without the occupant's participation, consent, or negligence.

(c) Administrative nature; without prejudice. — Liability under this section is administrative in character and is without prejudice to liability under other laws where the act constitutes a distinct offense.

SEC. 11. *Vehicle-Related Littering: Liability of Actual Offender; Limited Responsibility of Driver in Control.* —

(a) Primary administrative liability of the actual offender. — The person who actually commits vehicle-related littering, whether the driver or any passenger, shall be primarily liable for the administrative violation and penalties under this Act.

(b) Administrative liability of the driver in control for the passenger's acts. — The driver or person in actual control of the vehicle at the time of the act shall likewise be administratively liable only when the driver

- (i) committed the act;
- (ii) knowingly authorized, tolerated, or directed the littering; or
- (iii) having actual knowledge of the littering and a reasonable opportunity and ability to prevent or stop it, negligently failed to do so.

(c) Without prejudice clause. — The administrative liability created under this section is without prejudice to any civil or criminal liability arising from the same act, if applicable.

SEC. 12. *Implementing Roles of LGUs and DENR.* — Local government units (LGUs) shall implement this Act consistent with segregation-at-source requirements, and may enact ordinances to strengthen local enforcement consistent with national law. The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) shall provide technical assistance and issue implementing standards/guidelines within its mandate, and shall coordinate with LGUs to ensure harmonized implementation.

SEC. 13. *Citizen Participation and Reporting.* — LGUs may establish citizen reporting and participation mechanisms, including hotlines and digital reporting portals, subject to data privacy and due process requirements. LGUs may share verified reports and enforcement statistics with DENR for monitoring, technical support, and program evaluation, consistent with applicable laws and issuances.

SEC. 14. *Separability Clause.* — If any provision of this Act is held invalid, the other provisions not affected shall remain in force.

SEC. 15. *Repealing* — All laws, decrees, rules, regulations, and parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended or modified accordingly.

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