

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 10206

Introduced by: **REP. TOBIAS “TOBY” M. TIANGCO**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Access to clean, safe, and properly maintained toilets is a basic public health, hygiene, dignity, environmental, and mobility concern. Commuters, market vendors, persons with disabilities, children, pregnant women, senior citizens, and persons with medical conditions are especially affected when public sanitation facilities are absent, unsafe, inaccessible, or poorly maintained.

Philippine data and studies show that sanitation and hygiene remain continuing public concerns. The *Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA)* reported that in 2024, while 84.7% of Filipino families had access to basic sanitation service, 10.1% still relied on shared sanitation facilities, 2.7% used unimproved sanitation facilities, and 2.6% practiced open defecation due to lack of toilet facilities. The same report also noted gaps in handwashing access and availability of soap, showing the need to strengthen hygiene infrastructure and practices.

In schools, the Department of Education’s WASH in Schools program recognizes that insufficient toilets, inadequate handwashing facilities, and poor hygiene practices contribute to sanitation challenges, illness, absenteeism, and other barriers to learning. A Philippine study on public school toilets further showed that improving toilet usability and cleanliness requires not only infrastructure, but also proper operation, maintenance, monitoring, and hygiene promotion. In public markets, a 2025 study on handwashing nudges in urban public markets in the Philippines found that the introduction of visible handwashing facilities increased handwashing with soap behavior over time, while lack of consistent water and soap supply affected sustained practice.

This bill mandates minimum standards for public toilets and sanitation facilities in key public places and requires LGUs and facility operators to plan, maintain, and improve access. It encourages healthy and hygienic practices among the public by ensuring that sanitation facilities are clean, accessible, properly supplied, and suitable for regular use.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Toby M. Tiangco", written over a horizontal line.

TOBIAS “TOBY” M. TIANGCO
Representative
Lone District, Navotas City

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HOUSE BILL NO. 10206

Introduced by: **REP. TOBIAS “TOBY” M. TIANGCO**

**AN ACT MANDATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF ACCESSIBLE, SAFE, CLEAN,
GENDER-RESPONSIVE, AND WELL-MAINTAINED PUBLIC TOILETS AND
SANITATION FACILITIES IN PUBLIC PLACES, TRANSPORT TERMINALS, TOURIST
AREAS, MARKETS, PARKS, AND GOVERNMENT CENTERS, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES**

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.*—This Act shall be known as the "Public Toilet and Sanitation Access Act".

SEC 2. *Declaration of State Policy.*— It is the policy of the State to ensure dignified access to safe, clean, accessible, and inclusive public sanitation facilities as part of public health and local development.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* - For purposes of this Act:

1. Public toilet refers to a toilet, restroom, comfort room, urinal, handwashing facility, diaper-changing area where applicable, or related sanitation facility intended for public use.
2. Covered public place includes public markets, transport terminals, parks, plazas, tourist areas, government centers, public hospitals, schools where open for public events, and other areas identified by implementing rules.
3. Accessible facility refers to a sanitation facility designed for use by persons with disabilities, senior citizens, pregnant persons, and persons with mobility limitations.

SEC. 4. *Mandatory Public Toilet Access Program and Minimum Sanitation Standards.* — The following minimum standards and requirements are hereby established:

1. LGUs and operators of covered public places shall provide or ensure reasonable access to public toilets meeting minimum standards on cleanliness, water, lighting, ventilation, safety, privacy, menstrual hygiene disposal, handwashing, and accessibility.
2. Each covered LGU shall prepare a Public Sanitation Access Plan mapping existing facilities, gaps, maintenance responsibilities, financing options, and priority locations.

SEC. 5. *Implementing Agency.* - The Department of Health, Department of the Interior and Local Government, Department of Public Works and Highways, Department of Tourism, Department of Transportation, and LGUs shall jointly implement this Act.

SEC. 6. *Penalties and Remedies.* - Any violation of this Act, its implementing rules and regulations, or any lawful order issued pursuant thereto shall be punishable in accordance with applicable laws, rules, regulations, and ordinances, without prejudice to other appropriate legal actions.

SEC. 7. *Appropriations.* - The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the concerned agencies. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the lead implementing agency, in coordination with concerned agencies and stakeholders, shall promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 11. *Effectivity.* - *This* Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,