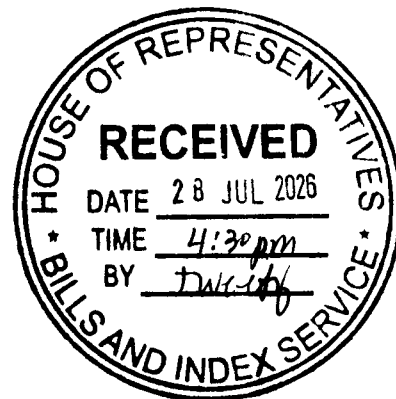




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

20th CONGRESS
2nd Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO 10318

Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE JENNIFER A. LAGBAS**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Standards for public safety signage already exist — scattered across Presidential Decree No. 1096 (National Building Code), the DPWH Road Signs and Pavement Markings Manual, the DENR-Mines and Geosciences Bureau's landslide warning guidelines, and the 1968 Vienna Convention on Road Signs and Signals — but no single law ties these standards to accountability when they are ignored. Local officials, for instance in the Cordillera region, have publicly attributed rising road-accident rates partly to the lack or poor visibility of warning signs in remote, hazard-prone areas, particularly during fog and heavy rain. Responsibility for signage is currently split among the DPWH, MMDA, LGUs, and DENR-MGB, with no clear consequence when a death or injury results from a missing, substandard, or poorly maintained sign.

Article II, Section 5 of the Constitution, which calls for the protection of life and property and the promotion of the general welfare, supports the State's authority to require accident-prevention signage in hazard-prone areas, while Article XI, Section 1, which declares public office a public trust demanding accountability, responsibility, and efficiency, underlies the imposition of administrative penalties on the specific officials responsible for signage in their jurisdiction.

The bill directs the DPWH, MMDA, and LGUs to construct, install, and maintain public safety signages conforming to existing national and international standards, and requires DENR-MGB to keep geohazard maps updated and coordinate installation of signage in newly identified risk areas. It designates specific officers-in-charge — DPWH district engineers for national roads, the MMDA Traffic Engineering Center Director for Metro Manila, and city or municipal engineers for local roads — and imposes graduated administrative penalties, from one-month suspension up to dismissal for repeated offenses, on the responsible officer when an injury or death is traceable to a missing, non-conforming, or poorly maintained sign, without foreclosing separate criminal or civil liability for the aggrieved party.

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

A stylized, handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large loop and a trailing flourish.

HON. JENNIFER A. LAGBAS
Representative
First District, Misamis Oriental



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

20th CONGRESS
2nd Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10318

Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE JENNIFER A. LAGBAS**

AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR STRICTER ENFORCEMENT IN THE CONSTRUCTION,
INSTALLATION AND MAINTENANCE OF PUBLIC SAFETY SIGNAGES

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 Safety Signages Accountability Act”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* — It is the declared policy of the State to safeguard the life, health, property, and the general welfare of the people. Towards this end, the State shall provide the people with appropriate information through the construction, installation, and maintenance of accident-prevention or risk-reduction signages in areas identified as potential risks or dangers.

SEC. 3. *Public Safety Signages.* — The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), the Metropolitan Manila Development Authority (MMDA), and the local government units (LGUs) shall undertake the construction, installation, and maintenance of public safety signages. They shall ensure that these signages conform to the standard specifications under Section 4 of this Act and are strategically located, clear, visible and properly maintained.

For purposes of this Act, public safety signages refer to regulatory signs, warning signs, guide or informative signs, signs for expressways, signs for special purposes or traffic instruction signs, hazard markers, road works signs, warning signages in areas vulnerable to landslides, floods, storm surge, and other hazards, as well as other risk reduction signages that are officially designed or erected by the national government, local government, or other pertinent government agencies pursuant to any government project or campaign and for the purpose of public safety.

SEC. 4. *Public Safety Signages Standard.* — All public safety signages shall conform to the standard specifications prescribed under Presidential Decree No. 1096, otherwise known as the “National Building Code of the Philippines”, DPWH Road Signs and Pavement Markings Manual, the Outdoor Landslide Warning Signage of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Mines and Geo Sciences Bureau (DENR-MGB), the pertinent provisions of the 1968 Vienna Convention on Road Signs and Signals, and other relevant international treaties, laws and issuances from government agencies.

SEC. 5. *Public Safety Signages on Geologic Hazards.* — The DENR-MGB, in coordination with other pertinent government agencies, shall update the geohazard map and identify areas that are susceptible or prone to various geologic hazards such as floods, landslides, earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic eruptions and other similar calamities. It shall then coordinate with the affected city and municipal engineers, DPWH, and MMDA for the proper installment of public safety signages on geologic hazards. These signages shall conform to the standard specifications under Section 4 of this Act and should be strategically located, clear, visible, and properly maintained.

SEC. 6. *Officers in Charge of Road and Traffic Public Safety Signages.* — The DPWH through its respective District Engineers in case of national roads, the MMDA through the Director of the Traffic Engineering Center in case of national roads in Metro Manila, and the LGUs through the City or Municipal Engineers in case of local roads, shall be responsible for the duties and responsibilities mentioned under Sections 3, 4 and 5 of this Act.

SEC. 7. *Administrative Penalties.* — In case an injury or death occurs due to: (a) lack of an installation of public safety signages despite being identified as areas of potential risk or danger by the DENR-MGB; (b) construction of public safety signages contrary to the standards provided under Section 4 of this Act; or (c) lack or poor maintenance of public safety signage, the DPWH district engineer involved, the MMDA Director of the Traffic Engineering Center or the City or Municipal Engineer shall, after due notice and hearing, suffer the administrative penalty of suspension of one (1) month and one (1) day to three (3) months, for the first offense; three (3) months and one (1) day to six (6) months, for the second offense; six (6) months and one (1) day to one (1) year, for the third offense; and dismissal from service, for the fourth offense.

Nothing herein shall prohibit the aggrieved party from initiating a criminal or civil action against the responsible officer.

SEC 8. *Funding.* — The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the concerned agency or city or municipality. Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for continued implementation shall be included in the annual budget of the concerned agency or city or municipality.

SEC. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* — Within sixty (60) days from the approval of this Act, DPWH, in coordination with DILG, MMDA, and DENR, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations implementing the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.* — All laws, decrees, orders, or rules and regulations which are inconsistent or contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby amended or repealed accordingly.

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

Approved,