



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 11253



Introduced by Rep. ROBERT NAZAL

**AN ACT PROMOTING URBAN FLOOD RESILIENCE AND RAINWATER
HARVESTING THROUGH THE ADOPTION OF A NATIONAL URBAN DRAINAGE
AND RUNOFF MANAGEMENT CODE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Urban flooding has become one of the most pressing public safety, economic, and environmental concerns in the Philippines. Typhoons, monsoon rains, and localized thunderstorms regularly overwhelm drainage systems, causing property damage, business disruptions, displacement of families, and loss of life. In Metro Manila alone, flood-related incidents cause an estimated ₱5 billion in annual economic losses.

The situation is aggravated by rapid urbanization, which has replaced natural ground cover with impermeable surfaces such as concrete and asphalt. These changes increase surface runoff while reducing natural infiltration, overwhelming outdated drainage networks—many of which were designed for rainfall patterns that no longer reflect current climate conditions. Improper solid waste disposal further clogs waterways, reducing flow capacity.

Current legal provisions addressing drainage and water management are scattered across various statutes, such as the Local Government Code, the Water Code of the Philippines, and certain environmental regulations. However, there is no single, binding national standard for urban runoff management that integrates both flood mitigation and water conservation.

The proposed *Urban Flood Resilience and Rainwater Harvesting Act* seeks to fill this gap by mandating the creation of a **National Urban Drainage and Runoff Management Code**, to be developed by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) in coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD), and other agencies.

The measure requires the installation of on-site detention and retention systems, permeable paving, and rainwater catchment facilities in all new developments above a certain threshold, while promoting retrofitting in older districts. Rainwater harvesting will serve the dual purpose of reducing peak runoff and conserving water for non-potable uses such as irrigation, fire suppression, cooling, and cleaning.

Through uniform technical standards, strict compliance timelines for LGUs, and capacity-building programs, this measure will provide a clear national framework to address urban flooding while also promoting water sustainability. Incentives will be available for LGUs and private developers that go beyond compliance through innovative, climate-resilient solutions.

By passing this bill, Congress will directly address urban flood risks, protect lives and livelihoods, and help achieve the country's climate adaptation and sustainable development goals.

In view of the urgent need to institutionalize a coherent and enforceable framework for stormwater and rainwater management in urban areas nationwide, the swift passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



ROBERT NAZAL
Representative

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

Section 1. Title. – This legislative measure shall be known and cited as the
“**Urban Flood Resilience and Rainwater Harvesting Act.**”

Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to
safeguard the lives, health, and property of its citizens by strengthening the resilience
of urban communities to flooding, while promoting the sustainable use and
conservation of water resources. In pursuit of this policy, the State shall adopt and
implement a uniform set of technical standards and guidelines for the planning, design,
construction, operation, and maintenance of urban drainage and runoff management
systems.

These standards shall incorporate climate-resilient infrastructure solutions,
mandate the installation of rainwater harvesting facilities, require the use of permeable
surfaces and green infrastructure, and ensure the retrofitting of outdated drainage
systems, particularly in high-risk urban districts.

The State shall work in close partnership with local government units (LGUs),
relevant government agencies, civil society, and the private sector to achieve these
objectives.

Sec. 3. Statement of Objectives. – This Act is enacted to achieve the following
objectives:

1. To establish a binding and comprehensive National Urban Drainage and Runoff Management Code applicable to all urbanized areas, highly urbanized cities, component cities, and municipalities with high-density settlements throughout the country;
2. To prescribe the mandatory incorporation of on-site detention and retention systems, permeable pavements, rain gardens, bioswales, and other forms of green infrastructure in all new developments and major renovations;
3. To require the installation of rainwater catchment facilities in all newly constructed buildings, subdivisions, commercial complexes, industrial facilities, and government infrastructure projects;
4. To mandate the retrofitting of drainage utilities and related infrastructure in older urban districts so that they meet modern engineering standards for climate resilience;
5. To ensure that LGUs fully comply with the technical specifications to be promulgated by the Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH) under the National Urban Drainage and Runoff Management Code; and
6. To integrate flood risk reduction strategies and water conservation measures into all urban development planning and implementation efforts.

Sec. 4. Scope and Application. – The provisions of this Act shall apply to all urbanized areas, highly urbanized cities, component cities, and municipalities with high-density settlements, as determined by the Philippine Statistics Authority or as may hereafter be defined by law.

Sec. 5. National Urban Drainage and Runoff Management Code. – Within one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act, the DPWH, in coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD), and such other national government agencies and stakeholders as may be necessary, shall develop, promulgate, and adopt a comprehensive National Urban Drainage and Runoff Management Code. This Code shall prescribe the technical standards, methodologies, and procedures for the effective management of stormwater and rainwater in urban areas.

Sec. 6. Mandatory Compliance by Local Government Units. – All LGUs falling within the scope of this Act shall, within six (6) months from the promulgation of the National Urban Drainage and Runoff Management Code, adopt and integrate said Code into their Comprehensive Land Use Plans (CLUPs), zoning ordinances, and local development plans. Compliance shall be mandatory and enforceable, and LGUs shall be required to align all urban drainage projects, approvals, and permits with the provisions of the Code.

Sec. 7. Stormwater and Runoff Infrastructure Requirements for New Developments. – All new developments and redevelopment projects that will result in the creation of more than five hundred (500) square meters of impervious surface area shall:

1. Install on-site detention or retention facilities sufficient to capture and regulate peak stormwater runoff volumes in accordance with the design standards of the DPWH;
2. Incorporate permeable paving, rain gardens, bioswales, infiltration trenches, or other equivalent infiltration systems to promote groundwater recharge and reduce surface runoff; and
3. Ensure full compliance with the minimum design and capacity standards for drainage systems as prescribed in the National Urban Drainage and Runoff Management Code.

Sec. 8. Rainwater Catchment Facilities. – All new buildings, subdivisions, commercial complexes, industrial facilities, and government infrastructure projects shall be designed, constructed, and equipped with rainwater catchment facilities having storage capacity proportionate to their roof area and impervious surfaces, in accordance with technical standards to be issued by the DPWH.

The DPWH, in coordination with the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), shall also formulate and implement programs to promote the retrofitting of existing buildings and facilities with rainwater catchment systems. Such programs may include the provision of incentives, technical assistance, and inclusion of rainwater harvesting systems in government-led retrofitting projects.

All rainwater collected shall be intended for non-potable applications such as landscape irrigation, fire protection, cooling systems, and cleaning purposes, subject to water safety and quality standards to be issued by the appropriate regulatory agencies.

Sec. 9. Retrofitting of Existing Urban Districts. – The DPWH, in collaboration with LGUs, shall conduct flood risk assessments and identify priority urban districts for retrofitting of drainage and runoff systems, including the installation of rainwater harvesting facilities, in order to meet the updated engineering standards provided under this Act.

Sec. 10. Monitoring and Enforcement. – The DPWH shall be the primary agency responsible for ensuring national compliance with this Act, and shall establish a monitoring framework for its enforcement. LGUs shall be tasked to perform regular inspections and audits of urban drainage and rainwater harvesting facilities to ensure operational efficiency and adherence to maintenance standards.

Sec. 11. Penalties. – Any LGU, property developer, or facility owner who fails or refuses to comply with the provisions of this Act, or with the standards set forth in the National Urban Drainage and Runoff Management Code, shall be liable to administrative fines and other penalties as may be prescribed in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).

Sec. 12. Incentives. – The national government may grant fiscal or non-fiscal incentives to LGUs and private developers who adopt and implement innovative, climate-resilient drainage and rainwater harvesting solutions that substantially exceed the minimum requirements set forth in this Act.

Sec. 13. Public Awareness and Capacity Building. – The DPWH, in coordination with the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), shall design and implement nationwide public education campaigns and capacity-building programs to raise awareness on the importance of flood resilience and rainwater harvesting. These initiatives shall target LGUs, developers, engineers, architects, and communities.

Sec. 14. Lead Agency. – The DPWH shall serve as the lead agency in the implementation of this Act, in coordination with the DENR, DHSUD, DILG, and such other agencies as may be deemed necessary.

Sec. 15. Appropriations. – The amounts necessary to carry out the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the respective budgets of the concerned agencies for the current fiscal year. Thereafter, such amounts as may be necessary for the continuous implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Sec. 16. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DPWH, in consultation with the concerned agencies, shall promulgate the Implementing Rules and Regulations to operationalize its provisions.

Sec. 17. Repealing Clause. – All laws, presidential decrees, executive issuances, administrative orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

Sec. 18. Separability Clause. – Should any section, provision, or part of this Act be declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remaining portions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

Sec. 19. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect immediately after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,