

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4048



Introduced by **HON. GUSTAVO S. TAMBUNTING**

AN ACT
INSTITUTIONALIZING THE CREATION OF "THE PLASTIC BAG RECYCLING ACT OF 2022" AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This piece of legislation seeks to reduce or minimize the use of plastic bags which destroy the environment. This Act shall be known as "The Plastic Bag Recycling Act of 2022."

What's wrong with plastic bags? Plastic bags are seen as a symbol of a wasteful society as they are a form of packaging that is often not essential.

Plastic bags are a problem for various reasons. Plastic carryout bags and film plastic are not biodegradable. The bags break down into smaller and smaller toxic bits that contaminate soil and waterways.

Many efforts are being made around the world to combat this problem and reduce the use of these bags. As a single-use disposable form of packaging, plastic bags are typically used for a short period but take hundreds of years to break down in landfill. Plastic bags are an extremely visible and unsightly component of litter. If plastic bags continue to be used, the number of bags littering the environment will increase over time.

Salient provisions of this proposal require that retailers establish an at-store recycling program and offer reusable bags (such as canvas or cloth).

This representation further finds and determines that we must reduce the use of plastic bags and encourage the use of reusable bags to reduce and decrease litter and benefit the environment.

The proposed recycling program furthers and favors programs that maximize material reuse and recycling and programs that use energy-efficient recycling processes.

More so, it is the policy of the State to protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.

On behalf of the people of Parañaque City's Second District, and for the common good of the Filipino people, the approval of the said measure is earnestly sought.

REP. GUSTAVO S. TAMBUNTING
2nd District, Parañaque City

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as "The Plastic Bag Recycling Act of 2022."

SECTION 2. *State Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to protect and advance the rights of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.

SECTION 3. *Purpose.* – To encourage the use of reusable bags amongst consumers and retailers and reduce the consumption of single-use bags, and require an at-store recycling program for plastic bags.

SECTION 4. *Objective.* – To determine and implement programs that maximize material reuse, and recycling and programs that use energy-efficient processes.

SECTION 5. *Coverage.* – A retail establishment that provides plastic carryout bags to its customers as a result of the sale of consumer goods.

SECTION 6. *At-Store Recycling Program.* – The operator of a store shall establish an at-store recycling program under the provisions of this Act that provides an opportunity for the public to return to the store plastic carryout bags from a retail store or any other retail source.

SECTION 7. *Penalties.* – Any operator who violates any provision of this article shall be punished by a fine not to exceed P100,000.00 for a first offense; by a fine not to exceed P150,000 for a second offense, and by a fine not to exceed P200,000 for a third and each subsequent offense committed in any twelve months. Each day that an operator fails to comply with this article shall constitute a separate and distinct violation.

SECTION 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) together with the stakeholders and other related government agencies and entities shall promulgate the rules and regulations as it deems necessary and appropriate for the implementation and enforcement of the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, a presidential proclamation, rules, regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

SECTION 10. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other provisions hereof.

SECTION 11. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,