

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



23 MAY 17 P12:54

SENATE

RECEIVED BY

S. No. 2209

Introduced by **SENATOR CYNTHIA A. VILLAR**

**AN ACT
MANDATING ALL RESTAURANTS, HOTELS, INNS, FASTFOOD, CENTERS,
EATERIES AND SIMILAR ESTABLISHMENTS TO PROHIBIT THE USE OF
DRINKING PLASTIC STRAWS AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR
VIOLATION**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

"Article II, Section 16 of the Philippine Constitution mandates that 'the State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.'

Plastic pollution, particularly from single-use items like plastic drinking straws, poses a considerable challenge to our constitutional right to a balanced and healthful ecology. These plastic straws, being non-biodegradable, persist in the environment for centuries, causing significant harm to diverse species and human health. However, we are not without alternatives. Readily available options such as metal, paper, or bamboo straws offer sustainable alternatives to plastic straws. Having other choices besides plastic straws makes it both possible and urgent for us to make a change. This switch to greener options is an important move we could make now to ensure a sustainable future.

The proposed 'Plastic Straws Ban Act' is a legislative measure requiring us to reassess our consumption patterns and to align them more closely with the principles of sustainability and environmental stewardship. This bill mandates all

food and hospitality establishments, encompassing restaurants, hotels, inns, fast food centers, and eateries, to eliminate the use of plastic drinking straws. This measure targets an ample reduction of the nation's plastic footprint, reflecting a concerted effort to align everyday practices with the constitutional commitment to safeguard our environment. Further, the bill provides penalties to serve as a deterrent against non-compliance, while the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) is entrusted with the responsibility to develop the implementing rules and regulations, in order to foster effective implementation of the legislative measure.

The proposed legislation not only advances the constitutional right to a balanced and healthful ecology but also marks a significant stride in the national journey towards sustainable development.

Hence, I seek the swift approval of this measure.


CYNTHIA A. VILLAR

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

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Plastic Straws Ban
2 Act.”

3 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the declared policy of the State to protect
4 and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord
5 with the rhythm and harmony of nature.

6 Sec. 3. *Ban.* – It is hereby banned the use of drinking plastic straws at all
7 restaurants, hotels, inns, fastfood centers, eateries, and similar establishments and
8 violations thereof shall be meted appropriate fines or penalties as a competent court
9 may prescribe.

10 Sec. 4. *Appropriation.* - The Secretary of the Department of Environment and
11 Natural Resources shall immediately include in the agency’s program the
12 operationalization of this Act, the funding of which shall be included in the General
13 Appropriations Act on the year of its enactment and every year thereafter.

1 Sec. 5. *Implementation.* – The Secretary of the Department of Environment
2 and Natural Resources shall issue rules and regulations that may be necessary to
3 carry out the provisions of this Act.

4 Sec. 6. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect upon its publication in the
5 Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,