

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 3536



Introduced by Rep. Precious Hipolito Castelo

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Sec 16 of the Philippine Constitution provides that the state shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balance and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.

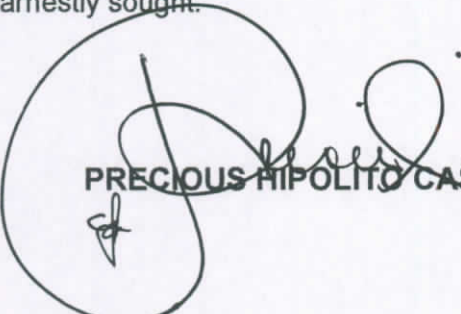
Plastic does not disintegrate and is non-biodegradable. Plastic is dumped everywhere especially in bays, lakes, rivers or in the open seas even.

When found in the environment, plastic can harm wildlife, fish and birds and could cause their death. It is much of a menace in the natural world inhabited by humans as well.

It is not as if there were no alternative to plastic drinking straws like straws made of metal, paper, or bamboos, although it may entail additional costs on the part of the owners of business establishments. It is now high time to venture on using sustainable materials to help in alleviating the use of single-use plastics.

This bill attaches higher premium to the environment and the lives that it can save with an environment free from plastic waste.

Hence, the swift approval of this bill is most earnestly sought.


PRECIOUS HIPOLITO CASTELO

Republic of the Philippines
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HOUSE BILL NO. 3536

Introduced by **Rep. Precious Hipolito Castelo**

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**

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

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

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the declared 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.

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

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

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

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

Approved,