

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session  
3537  
**HOUSE BILL NO. \_\_\_\_\_**



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**Introduced by Rep. Precious Hipolito Castelo**

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### **EXPLANATORY NOTE**

In Manila, there is concerted effort to ban use of plastic bags. It should be so in other cities or places.

It is so since the trash thrown into Manila Bay or the Pasig River, for that matter, is of plastic stuff or are in fact, single-use plastic shopping bags from grocery stores, convenience stores, drug stores, delicatessens or similar marketplace.

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

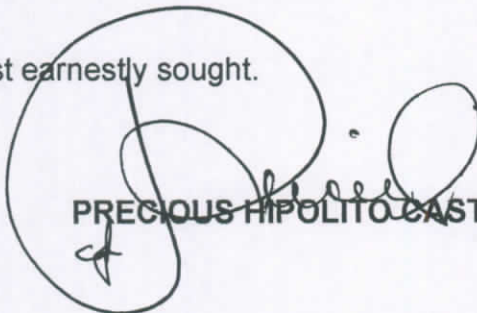
When found in the environment, plastic can harm wildlife, fish and birds and could cause their death. It is much of a menace in the natural world inhabited by humans as well.

Boats, ships or ocean-bound vessels could be potential victims of maritime disasters caused by plastic materials underneath our seas, bays, piers, harbors, or wharves and so on.

It is not as if there were no alternative to plastic shopping bags like bags made of paper although initially it may entail additional costs on the part of the owners of retail stores.

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**

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**AN ACT**

**BANNING USE OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC SHOPPING BAGS AT GROCERY STORES, CONVENIENCE STORES, DRUG STORES, DELICATESSENS OR SIMILAR MARKETPLACE IN ORDER TO PROTECT THE ENVIRONMENT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

*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 Bags 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 single-use plastic shopping bags at grocery stores, convenience stores, drug stores, delicatessens, or similar marketplace 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,*