



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4131



INTRODUCED BY REP. HARRIS CHRISTOPHER M. ONGCHUAN

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In 2019, the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA) named 21 tropical cyclones that entered the Philippine Area of Responsibility (PAR), since the Philippines is situated in the center of the Typhoon Belt. This figure is around the average number of cyclones entering the PAR annually for the years of 1980 to 2010.

In order to boost the nation's resilience during these natural disasters, hazards such as commercial billboards need to be removed before they cause further infrastructure damage and become a hindrance to first responders.

This representation seeks to prohibit the display of commercial billboards and advertising materials within twelve (12) hours from an official announcement and/or release of a Typhoon Signal No. 1 advisory.

In the 18th Congress, this bill was filed by Rep. Alfred Vargas and Rep. Eduardo "Bro. Eddie" Villanueva, approved by the House of Representatives on third reading, and was transmitted to the Senate.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of the bill is earnestly sought.


HARRIS CHRISTOPHER M. ONGCHUAN



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Introduced by Representative
HARRIS CHRISTOPHER M. ONGCHUAN

AN ACT
PROHIBITING THE ACTIVE USE AND DISPLAY OF COMMERCIAL
BILLBOARDS DURING TYPHOONS

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “*Bawal Billboard Tuwing Bagyo Act*”.

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is the policy of the State to mitigate the risk of billboard-related accidents during typhoons. For this purpose, the operation of billboards during weather disturbances shall be strictly prohibited as a public safety measure for the motorists and pedestrians.

SEC. 3. *Prohibition on the Active Use of Billboards During Typhoons.* – All advertising materials shall be automatically taken down by the billboard operator within twelve (12) hours from an official announcement and/or release of a Typhoon Signal No. 1 bulletin or any other significant weather disturbance from the Philippine Atmospheric, Geophysical and Astronomical Services Administration (PAGASA). This prohibition shall be in effect for the duration of the weather disturbance. For this purpose, contents on tarpaulin-based billboards shall be taken down, while electronic-based billboards shall be switched off during this period.

SEC. 4. *Penal Clause.* - Any billboard operator or person who shall violate the provisions of this Act shall be subject to a fine of not less than Three Hundred

Thousand Pesos (Php 300,000), or imprisoned of not less than six (6) months but not more than one (1) year, upon the discretion of the court.

SEC. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* — The Department of Public Works and Highways (DPWH), in consultation with the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), other metropolitan councils and other relevant agencies, shall promulgate and issue the implementing rules and regulations of this Act within sixty (60) days from the effectivity thereof.

SEC. 6. *Separability Clause.* — If any part or provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions thereof which are not affected shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.* — All laws, rules, and regulations, presidential decrees, letters of instruction and other presidential issuances which are incompatible or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

SEC. 7. *Effectivity.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least one (1) newspaper of general circulation, whichever comes earlier.

Approved.