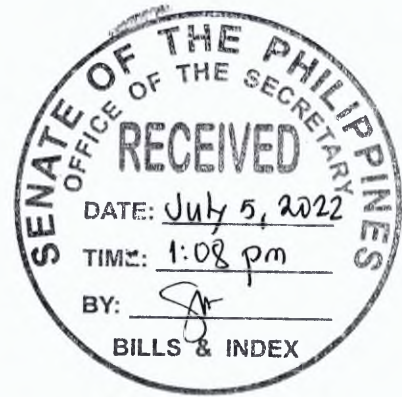


NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*First Regular Session* )



**SENATE**

**S. No. 18**

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Introduced by Senator **PIA S. CAYETANO**

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**AN ACT**  
**PROVIDING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND**  
**COMMUNITIES IN THE COUNTRY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In a study entitled *Overview of Internal Migration in Philippines*,<sup>1</sup> it was discussed that the urban population in the Philippines has increased by over 50 million in the last 50 years. This rapid urban migration resulted from the popular view that urban areas offer better opportunities for the rural poor. However, this has instead led to the increase in the incidence of urban poverty and inequality, as well as homelessness and informal settlement in our cities.

The Philippines, as one of the countries to adopt the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, is committed to integrate the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) into our national development plans and policies. One of these goals is SDG 11, which aims to “make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”<sup>2</sup>

During the pandemic, amidst the lockdowns and breakdown in supply chains, the importance of a city’s self-sufficiency became evident. Cities that produced their

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<sup>1</sup> Overview of Internal Migration in Philippines” (A policy brief jointly produced by UNESCO, UNDP, IOM, and UN-Habitat).  
<https://bangkok.unesco.org/sites/default/files/assets/article/Social%20and%20Human%20Sciences/publications/philippines.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> United Nations. (n.d.). *Sustainable Development Goal 11*.  
<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgl1>

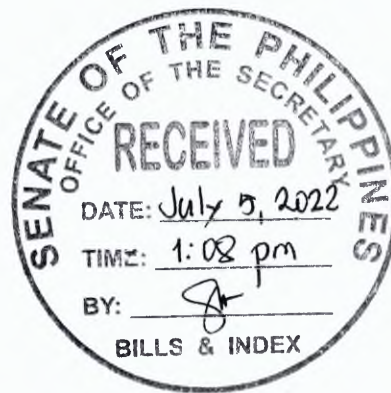
own essential resources such as food, and those that had readily-accessible healthcare, were able to provide for the needs of its residents and focus more on addressing the pandemic instead.

This bill, which was originally drafted by the undersigned and first filed in the 18th Congress, seeks to fulfil our international obligations with regard to the SDGs, and address the problems brought about by rapid urban growth, and ensure that the development of cities and communities in the country will be geared towards sustainability by encouraging and providing the necessary support to local government units so that they can transition into sustainable cities and communities.

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

*Pia S. Cayetano*  
PIA S. CAYETANO

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
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**SENATE**

**S. No. 18**

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**AN ACT  
PROVIDING FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND  
COMMUNITIES IN THE COUNTRY, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

*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 "*Sustainable Cities and*  
2 *Communities Act*".

3           Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The 1987 Constitution mandates the  
4 undertaking of a program of urban land reform and housing which will make decent  
5 housing and basic services available at affordable cost to underprivileged and  
6 homeless citizens in urban centers and resettlements areas, and ensure the availability  
7 of employment opportunities for them.

8           Pursuant thereto, it is hereby declared the policy of the State to make cities  
9 safe and sustainable by ensuring access to safe and affordable housing, and upgrading  
10 slum settlements.

11           The State shall likewise invest in public transport, create green public spaces,  
12 and improve urban planning and management in a way that is both participatory and  
13 inclusive.

14           Sec. 3. *Model for Sustainable Cities and Communities.* – All cities and  
15 communities shall transition into sustainable cities and communities. A sustainable  
16 city or community shall have the following:

- 17           a. Affordable housing;  
18           b. Accessible healthcare services and facilities;

- 1 c. Accessible social services to all, especially the vulnerable and
- 2 disadvantaged;
- 3 d. Child care facilities, youth centers, centers for senior citizens and other
- 4 sectors;
- 5 e. Efficient, accessible, and affordable public transport system;
- 6 f. Alternative means of getting from one place to another, other than
- 7 private and public vehicles, such as by walking, biking, using scooters,
- 8 and other eco-friendly and non-motorized modes;
- 9 g. Safe, accessible, and enjoyable areas of open space;
- 10 h. Preference for use of renewable resources;
- 11 i. Waste management system, where waste is recycled, wherever
- 12 possible;
- 13 j. Capacity for local food production, through but not limited to urban
- 14 farming and the creation of community gardens;
- 15 k. Energy efficient homes;
- 16 l. Strong community linkages to deal with issues such as peace and
- 17 order; and
- 18 m. Access to sports and cultural activities.

19 Sec. 4. *Indicators.* – The National Economic and Development Authority  
20 (NEDA), taking into consideration SDG 11 of the United Nations 2030 Agenda for  
21 Sustainable Development, shall set targets based on the following indicators to  
22 determine if a city or community has fully transitioned into a sustainable city or  
23 community:

- 24 a. Urban population living in slums – measured in terms of proportion of
- 25 urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate
- 26 housing;
- 27 b. Public transport access – measured in terms of proportion of
- 28 population that has convenient access to public transport, by sex, age
- 29 and persons with disabilities;
- 30 c. Sustainable urbanization rates – measured in terms of ratio of land
- 31 consumption rate to population growth rate;

- 1 d. Urban planning management – measured in terms of proportion of  
2 cities with a direct participation structure of civil society in urban  
3 planning and management that operate regularly and democratically;
- 4 e. Protecting cultural heritage – measured in terms of total public and  
5 private expenditure per capita spent on the preservation, protection  
6 and conservation of all cultural and natural heritage;
- 7 f. Deaths and injuries from natural disasters – measured in terms of  
8 number of deaths, missing persons and directly affected persons  
9 attributed to disasters per 100,000 population;
- 10 g. Economic losses from natural disasters – measured in terms of direct  
11 economic loss in relation to global GDP, damage to critical  
12 infrastructure and number of disruptions to basic services, attributed  
13 to disasters;
- 14 h. Solid waste management – measured in terms of proportion of urban  
15 solid waste regularly collected and with adequate final discharge out  
16 of total urban solid waste generated;
- 17 i. Urban air pollution – measured in terms of the annual mean levels of  
18 fine particulate matter;
- 19 j. Open spaces in cities – measured in terms of average share of the  
20 built-up area of cities that is open space for public use for all, by sex,  
21 age and persons with disabilities;
- 22 k. Safe spaces in cities – measured in terms of proportion of persons  
23 victim of physical or sexual harassment, by sex, age, disability status  
24 and place of occurrence, in the previous 12 months;
- 25 l. Urban and regional planning – measured in terms of proportion of  
26 population living in cities that implement urban and regional  
27 development plans integrating population projections and resource  
28 needs, by size of city;
- 29 m. Integrated disaster risk management – measured in terms of adoption  
30 and implementation of national disaster risk reduction strategies;

- 1 n. Local disaster risk management – measured in terms of adoption and  
2 implementation of local disaster risk reduction strategies in line with  
3 national disaster risk reduction strategies; and  
4 o. Such other targets based on indicators to be determined by NEDA  
5 consistent with the model of sustainable cities and communities  
6 provided in Section 3 of this Act.

7 *Sec. 5. Planning and Sustainable Development Officer. –*

- 8 a. Each city and municipality shall appoint a Planning and Sustainable  
9 Development Officer, who shall be a citizen of the Philippines, a resident of the  
10 city or municipality where he/she will be appointed, of good moral character,  
11 a holder of a college degree preferably in urban or environmental planning,  
12 development studies, economics, public administration, or any related course  
13 from a recognized college or university, a first grade civil service eligible or its  
14 equivalent, and must have acquired at least five (5) years' experience in  
15 development planning or in any related field.
- 16 b. The Planning and Sustainable Development Officer shall take charge of the  
17 Planning and Sustainable Development Office, and shall:
- 18 i. Formulate integrated economic, social, physical, and other development  
19 plans and policies for consideration of the city or municipality that will  
20 detail their transition to sustainability, taking into account the qualities  
21 for a model sustainable city or community provided in Section 3, and  
22 the indicators provided in Section 4 of this Act;
- 23 ii. Ensure that the principles of inclusivity, resiliency and sustainability are  
24 integrated in local development plans and policies, which shall include  
25 the review and adoption of policies that seek to achieve the United  
26 Nations Sustainable Development Goals and other similar targets  
27 identified by the national government and the people of the city or  
28 municipality;
- 29 iii. Applying the concept and methodologies of futures thinking, which takes  
30 a long-term, multi-perspective approach to consider different outcomes,  
31 conduct continuing studies, research, and training programs necessary

- 1 to evolve and innovate plans and programs for implementation, with the  
2 goal of achieving the city or municipality's desired future;
- 3 iv. Integrate and coordinate all sectoral plans and studies undertaken by  
4 the different functional groups or agencies;
- 5 v. Monitor and evaluate the implementation of different development  
6 programs, projects and activities in the city or municipality in accordance  
7 with the approved development plans;
- 8 vi. Prepare comprehensive plans and other development planning  
9 documents for the consideration of the local development council;
- 10 vii. Analyze the income and expenditure patterns, and formulate and  
11 recommend fiscal plans and policies for consideration of the finance  
12 committee of the city or municipality as provided under the Local  
13 Government Code of 1991, as amended;
- 14 viii. Promote people's participation in development planning within the city  
15 or municipality; and
- 16 ix. Exercise supervision and control over the secretariat of the local  
17 development council.
- 18 c. The Planning and Sustainable Development Officer shall also exercise such  
19 other duties and functions and perform other powers as provided for under the  
20 Local Government Code of 1991, as amended, and those that are prescribed  
21 by law or ordinance.

22 *Sec. 6. Support from National Government.* – The Department of Interior and  
23 Local Government (DILG) shall provide the necessary technical assistance and  
24 resource augmentation to LGUs to assist them in transitioning into sustainable cities  
25 and communities.

26 The NEDA and other related agencies are also hereby mandated to extend the  
27 necessary support and provide relevant input towards the effective implementation of  
28 this Act.

29 *Sec. 7. Incentives for Transitioning into Sustainable Cities or Communities.* –  
30 LGUs shall, as far as practicable, transition existing local government offices and  
31 facilities to accommodate sustainable infrastructure and more sustainable practices  
32 such as the use of solar panels, rainwater harvesting, use of sustainable building

1 materials, and enhanced ventilation and insulation, among others. New local  
2 government offices and facilities shall be constructed with a focus on sustainability.  
3 LGUs shall likewise transition, as far as practicable, to paperless transactions in their  
4 operations, without compromising the quality and timely delivery of services.

5 LGUs shall also encourage private establishments within their jurisdiction,  
6 through monetary or non-monetary incentives, to transition to and adopt more  
7 sustainable infrastructure and practices.

8 The DILG shall develop a grant or cash award incentive scheme for LGUs that  
9 are able to achieve their annual targets set by NEDA related to transitioning into  
10 sustainable cities and communities.

11 *Sec. 8. Authority to Enter into Contracts and Agreements.* – LGUs are hereby  
12 authorized to enter into contracts or agreements and receive grants, as may be  
13 necessary for the attainment of the objective of this Act.

14 *Sec. 9. Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is declared  
15 unconstitutional or otherwise invalid, the validity of the other provisions shall not be  
16 affected thereby.

17 *Sec. 10. Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or  
18 parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

19 *Sec. 11. Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from its  
20 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*