

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



THIRTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HB No. 1368

Introduced by Rep. Roseller L. Barinaga

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to earmark twenty-five (25%) percent of government revenues accrued from tobacco taxes to fund tobacco control programs and activities of the government.

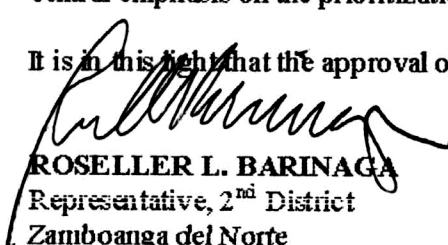
One of the noble intents of the bill is to ease the effects of short-run transition of tobacco farmers whose livelihoods will be affected by the reduced consumption of tobacco and/or cigarette once efforts to stop the usage of such tobacco products start to trickle down to individual consumers.

Through the prodding of the World Health Organization (WHO) several countries recently have decided to fund tobacco control activities or broader public health programs through tobacco higher taxes. For instance, in the United Kingdom, Chancellor Gordon Brown of the Exchequer, in November 1999, announced that the National Health Service was to benefit from increases in tobacco taxes. Following the similar effort, Ireland's Minister for Finance and Minister for Health and Children declared, in December 1999, that the revenue equivalent to a new tax increase on tobacco products would fund health provisions.

Consistent with these, the Health Minister of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia proposed to the members of the Gulf Cooperation Council during the 52nd World Health Assembly to standardize the levy imposed on tobacco products and that 5% be dedicated to tobacco control activities. In effect, Qatar earmarked tobacco taxes to fund similar efforts. A number of States in the United States of America like California and Massachusetts also implemented the same policy. Australia, Thailand, Egypt, and Iran also allocated part of their respective tobacco taxes to finance tobacco control programs and activities especially in the areas of broadening public health activities.

In the Philippines, we can also do the same. While this effort will ensure a cleaner environment and a healthier lifestyle for our people, the government can also focus and give central emphasis on the prioritization of providing public health services to our people.

It is in this light that the approval of this bill is earnestly enjoined.


ROSELLER L. BARINAGA
Representative, 2nd District
Zamboanga del Norte

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
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HB No. 1368

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AN ACT
TO EARMARK TWENTY-FIVE (25%) PERCENT OF GOVERNMENT REVENUES
ACCRUED FROM TOBACCO TAXES TO FUND TOBACCO CONTROL
PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES OF THE GOVERNMENT

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

SECTION 1. The national government shall earmark twenty-five (25%) percent of government revenues accrued from tobacco taxes to fund tobacco control programs and activities.

SEC. 2. *If any part or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and effect.*

SEC. 3. All laws, executive orders, rules, regulations and other issuances inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 4. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from its publication in two national newspapers of general circulation after its approval by the President.

Approved.