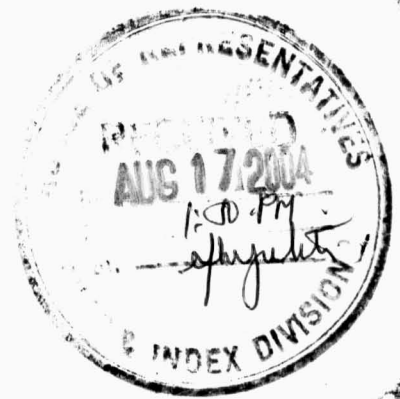


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City



THITEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2448

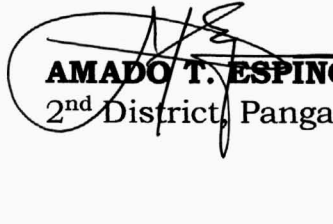
Introduced by HON. AMADO T. ESPINO, JR.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

A cursory inspection of supermarkets, groceries and sari-sari stores would reveal that a majority of processed foods, snacks and beverages for sale lack nutritional information. Some have information about the ingredients but not about their nutritional contents.

In this age of discriminating choice and health consciousness, it is imperative for these manufacturers and distributors to fully disclose the nutritive value of their products. This would also afford the uninformed public to know that what they are buying, are worth the money they are paying for. This would then determine if a food or drink is nutritious or just plain junk.

In view of this, passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


AMADO T. ESPINO, JR.
2nd District, Pangasinan

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2448

Introduced by HON. AMADO T. ESPINO, JR.

AN ACT

REQUIRING MANUFACTURERS AND DISTRIBUTORS OF PROCESSED FOODS, SNACKS AND BEVERAGES TO DETERMINE AND PRINT ON THE BOX, PACK, BOTTLE OR CONTAINER OF PROCESSED FOODS, SNACKS OR BEVERAGES THE NUTRITIONAL FACTS OF THEIR PRODUCTS WHICH ARE MANUFACTURED, DISTRIBUTED OR SOLD IN THE PHILIPPINES AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF.

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

SECTION 1. Scope - This act shall cover all the processed foods, snacks and beverages manufactured, distributed or sold within the territory of the Republic of the Philippines.

SECTION 2. Scientific Determination of Nutritional Value and Printing of Nutritional Facts - It shall be mandatory for all manufacturers and distributors of processed foods, snacks and beverages in the Philippines to scientifically determine the nutritional value and to provide a printed label of the nutritional facts of their product in the box, pack, bottle or container before sale to the public.

SECTION 3. Ban on All Non-Complying Manufacturers and Distributors - All distribution outlets or wholesale or retail stores shall be prohibited from selling, distributing or storing any box, pack, bottle or container of processed foods, snacks and beverages that does not comply with the requirements of this Act.

SECTION 4. Implementing Agency - The lead agency in the implementation of this Act shall be the Department of Trade and Industry. It shall determine, define and disseminate information

regarding the requirements of this Act. The Department shall also be responsible for the monitoring compliance with this Act and in supporting and coordinating with the police agencies in apprehending and prosecuting violators of this Act.

SECTION 5. Penalties – A fine of Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00) shall be imposed on any manufacturer, distributor, distribution outlet, wholesale or retail store for every count of violation of the provisions of this Act. For this purpose, every box, pack, bottle or container of processed foods, snacks or beverages found without the required information shall be considered one count of the violation. Any finished box, pack, bottle or container found without the required nutritional facts shall constitute prima facie evidence of the violation of the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 6. Transitory Provisions – All concerned manufacturers and distributors shall be allowed a period of one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act to comply with its provisions. All distribution outlets, wholesale and retail stores shall be allowed a period of one (1) year and six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act to exhaust its inventory of non-complying boxes, packs, bottles or containers of processed foods, snacks and beverages after which period the ban shall take effect.

SECTION 7. Effectivity – This Act shall take effect immediately upon approval hereof.

Approved,