

**Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila**

Thirteenth Congress
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 2935

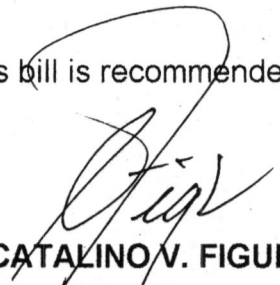
Introduced by Honorable Catalino V. Figueroa

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The threats that unsafe drinking water poses on human health necessitates the regulation of water business companies as contaminants in drinking water can cause the incidence of gastrointestinal infections, diarrhea, dysentery, hepatitis, damage to the nervous system and other related illness.

The instant bill seeks to regulate the business of producing and selling mineral water, pure or distilled. It provides protection to health and safety of the public by regulating the drinking water business so as to ensure that they comply with health standards and consistent with their advertisements. Furthermore, this bill aims to assure consumers that the bottled water they purchase is stringently regulated, tested and of the highest quality since many refill stations in Metro Manila are not properly monitored and regulated by the government and that refill stations may not be complying with the required standards for the production of drinking water.

In view thereof, the approval of this bill is recommended.


CATALINO V. FIGUEROA

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AN ACT
REGULATING THE BOTTLED WATER BUSINESS AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Title – This Act shall be known as the Bottled Water Business Act.

SECTION 2. It is the declared policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and to protect and safeguard the health of all citizens by ensuring that the water they consume are safe to drink as promoted and advertised by their suppliers, distributors or sellers.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms.

For the purposes of this Act, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

1. Bottled Water – potable water qualified as spring, pure, distilled and other similar quantities that have been processed through such means as filters, ultra-violet light and contained in bottles or containers as distinguished from the water supply distributed through pipes utility companies and all types of water wells.

2. Bottled Water Business – is the selling of wholesale or retail of bottled water. It includes any of the following:

1. procurement

2. production
 3. processing
 4. advertising and selling of such product
3. Consumer – any person who uses bottled water.

SECTION 4. Pursuant to the above-stated policy, the bottled water shall be subject to the following conditions:

1. Any person or entity who wishes to engage in the bottled water business must, in addition to the local business/mayor's permit, clearance and license must secure the herein bottled water business certificate to be issued by the Department of Trade and Industry. The certificate shall contain all such information needed or maybe determine by the Department.

2. Sample of water to be sold to the public must be submitted to the Bureau of Foods and Drugs (BFAD) for proper analysis and evaluation as to its quality, classified and certified.

SECTION 5. The BFAD shall make an appropriate classification of the different types of bottled water and promulgate the implementing rules, standards and regulations as maybe necessary to implement the intent and purposes of this Act. Such rules and regulations shall be published in two (2) national newspapers of general circulation

All franchise holders of duly accredited water refill stations shall be governed by the BFAD to ensure compliance with prescribed uniform quality standard. The BFAD, in coordination with appropriate agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations and standards necessary for the efficient and effective implementation of this Act.

SECTION 6. The City and Municipal Councils shall enact the necessary ordinances to ensure that the various laws, and implementing rules and regulations concerning water refill stations are strictly enforced.

SECTION 7. Penalties – A fine not exceeding Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00) or imprisonment of not less than six (6) months, or both at the discretion of the court shall be imposed upon any person who:

- a. violates, disobeys, refuses without justifiable cause, omits or neglects to comply with any provision of the laws, rules and regulations of the bottled water and water refill station industries;
- b. Interferes with or hinders, or opposes any officer, agent or member of any bureau or agency implementing the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 8. All laws, decrees, and promulgations inconsistent with this Act are hereby considered repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 9. This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following its publication in the Official Gazette or at least in two (2) newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes earlier.

Approved,