

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

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 1739

INTRODUCED BY HON. MARCELINO "MARCY" R. TEODORO

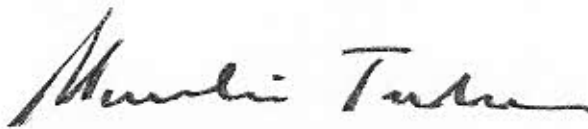
EXPLANATORY NOTE

Fetal alcohol syndrome (FAS) is one of the leading known preventable causes of mental retardation and birth defects. If a women drinks alcohol during pregnancy, her baby can be born with FAS, lifelong condition that causes physical and mental disabilities. FAS is characterized by abnormal facial feautres, growth deficiencies, and central nervous system (CNS) problems.

The Constitution, Article II, Section 12 provides that "State recognizes the sanctity of family life and shall protect and strengthen the family as a basic autonomous social institution. It shall equally protect the life of the mother and the life of the unborn from conception. The natural and primary right and duty of parents in the rearing of the youth for civic efficiency and the development of moral character shall receive the support of the Government."

Thus, this measure seeks to increase awareness of Fetal Alcohol Syndrome and prevent its occurrence by providing mandatory labelling of products containing alcohol.

Premises considered, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.



MARCELINO "MARCY" R. TEODORO
Representative, 1st District
City of Marikina

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AN ACT
PREVENTING THE DANGERS OF ALCOHOL CONSUMPTION IN CAUSING FETAL
ALCOHOL SYNDROME IN MOTHERS

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 "Fetal Alcohol Syndrome Warning Act of 2010."

SECTION 2. Definition of terms. - As used in this Act, the term--

(A) "Fetal Alcohol Syndrome" or FAS is a disorder of permanent birth defects that occurs in the offspring of women who drank alcohol during pregnancy. The main effect of FAS is permanent central nervous system damage. Developing brain cells and structures are underdeveloped or malformed by prenatal by prenatal alcohol exposure, often creating an array of primary cognitive and functional disabilities (including poor memory, attention deficits, impulsive behavior, and poor cause-effect reasoning) as well as secondary disabilities;

(B) "Alcoholic beverage" is any drink containing ethanol, commonly known as alcohol, which is a psychoactive drug, with depressant effect; and

(C) "Department" means the Department of Health;

SECTION 3. Packaging Requirement.- Any person who offers any alcoholic beverage for sale shall include a clear, conspicuous, and easily readable on the packaging or warning in the business establishment stating:

WARNING: Consumption of alcohol, spirits, wine or beer shortly before conception or during pregnancy can cause birth defects, including fetal alcohol syndrome and alcohol related neurological disorders.

SECTION 4. Penalties. - The Department is empowered to establish and assess penalties or fines against an employer for violations of this Act or regulation adopted under this Act. In no circumstance will any penalties or fines exceed Ten Thousand pesos (10,000.00) for each day the permit holder remains in violation.

SECTION 5. Separability Clause. -- If any provision, or part hereof is invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 6. Repealing Clause. - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent with, the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

SECTION 7. Effectivity Clause. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,