

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 731



Introduced by CHRISTOPHER S. CO and RODEL M. BATOCABE

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish a nationwide anti-obesity campaign for the control and prevention of obesity among the Filipino people.

Research has established that healthy lifestyle habits, including healthy eating and physical activity, can lower the risk of becoming obese and developing related diseases. An increased consumption of highly calorific foods, without an equal increase in physical activity, leads to an unhealthy increase in weight. Decreased levels of physical activity will also result in an energy imbalance and lead to weight gain.

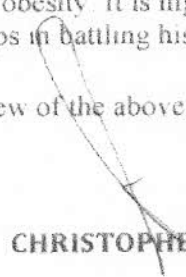
However, even with the trend toward physical fitness and exercise, more than 1.4 billion have been recorded in 2008 as overweight, and more than 500 million were obese. At least 2.8 million people die each year as a result of being overweight or obese. The prevalence of obesity has nearly doubled in the recent years.

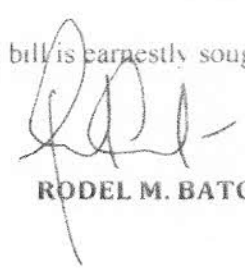
More alarming is the growing number of obese children. Childhood obesity is one of the most serious public health challenges of the 21st century. Overweight children are likely to become obese adults. They are more likely than non-overweight children to develop diabetes and cardiovascular diseases at a younger age, which in turn are associated with a higher chance of premature death and disability.

Sixty-five percent (65%) of the world's population live in a country where overweight and obesity kills more people than underweight. This includes all high-income and middle-income countries. Globally, 44% of diabetes, 23% of ischaemic heart disease and 7-41% of certain cancers are attributable to overweight and obesity.

Individual responsibility can only have its full effect where people have access to a healthy lifestyle, and are supported to make healthy choices. Social and economic development as well as policies in the areas of agriculture, transport, urban planning, environment, education, food processing, distribution and marketing influence children's dietary habits and preferences as well as their physical activity patterns. Increasingly, these influences are promoting unhealthy weight gain leading to a steady rise in the prevalence of childhood obesity. It is high time that the State see obesity as a societal problem among Filipinos and take proactive steps in battling this disease.

In view of the above circumstances, the swift passage of the bill is earnestly sought.


CHRISTOPHER S. CO


RODEL M. BATOCABE

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**AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CONTROL AND PREVENTION OF OBESITY AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

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 "Anti-Obesity Act of 2013 "

Section 2. Declaration of Policy - It is the declared policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people. Towards this end, a system for the control and prevention of obesity among citizens shall be provided and the need for a responsible diet established.

Section 3. Obesity. For the purposes of this Act, obesity shall refer to an excess proportion of total body fat, usually diagnosed so when a person's weight is at least twenty percent (20%) more than his or her normal or ideal weight. It is usually measured in body mass index (BMI), and is affected by, but not limited to, age, gender, genetics, environmental factors, physical activity, psychological factors, illness, and medication.

Section 4. National Anti-Obesity Campaign. - It is hereby mandated that there shall be a National Anti-Obesity Prevention and Control Program be implemented by a multi-agency/multi-sectoral committee chaired the Department of Health. The program shall be a multi-agency effort in controlling and preventing obesity in the country. Among its component activities include: (1) encouragement of awareness and prevention programs; (2) provision of consultation at the nearest health centers; and (3) conduct of information and education campaign on the prevention and control of obesity. The program shall be implemented by the Department of Health (DOH), Department of Science and Technology (DOST), Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) and Department of Education (DepEd), as well as Local Government Units (LGUs) with the assistance of Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and People's Organizations (POs).

Section 5. Responsibilities of Government Agencies - The following government agencies, which shall jointly implement the National Anti-Obesity Prevention and Control Program, shall be tasked to

A. Department of Health:

- (1) Stimulate the development, improvement and implementation of new strategies and interventions to improve our understanding of obesity, its causes and its effects;
- (2) Design projects and studies to help identify ways to better describe the impact of obesity and reduce medical complications;
- (3) Coordinate with the DepEd in the development of appropriate health education strategy to inform the public on obesity prevention and control;
- (4) Encourage collaborative activities with the DOST, DepEd, DILG, NGOs, POs and other concerned sectors

B. Barangays and other LGUs. - All Local Government Units shall be required to

- (1) Allocate funds to support the implementation of the National Anti-Obesity Prevention and Control Program within their locality; and

- (2) Enact additional local ordinances that will support the National Anti-Obesity Prevention and Control Program and initiate programs in which should include awareness campaign and other preventive measures.

The DILG shall ensure compliance of these responsibilities by the LGUs.

C. Department of Education

- (1) Strengthen anti-obesity education program through school health teaching/curriculum;
- (2) Encourage collaborative activities and information-sharing with the DOH, DILG, DENR, NGOs, POs and other concerned sectors;
- (3) Integrate proper information and education in the relevant subjects in the Elementary and High School levels, and
- (4) Implement other preventive actions that the Department of Health may provide.

Section 6. Assistance of NGOs and the Academe. - The agencies tasked to implement the anti-obesity program shall seek the assistance and participation of NGOs in any of the following activities:

- (1) Community mobilization;
- (2) Health education/information dissemination;
- (3) Mass anti-obesity campaign;
- (4) Promotion of the anti-obesity campaign;
- (5) Surveillance/reporting of obesity cases; and
- (6) Any other activities geared towards the prevention of obesity

Section 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The Department of Health, in coordination with the DILG, DepEd, NGOs and POs shall issue the necessary rules and regulations within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act.

Section 8. Appropriations. - The amount of One hundred million pesos (P100,000,000.00) necessary to implement the provisions of this Act shall be initially charged against the appropriations of the DOH, DILG and DepEd under the General Appropriations Act. For the LGUs, the requirements shall be taken from their Internal Revenue Allotment and other local funds. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Section 9. Separability Clause. - In case any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the other provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 10. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two newspapers of general circulation, whichever comes earlier.

Approved