

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Philippines

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 1523



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 woman drinks alcohol during pregnancy, her baby can be born with FAS, a lifelong condition that causes physical and mental disabilities. FAS is characterized by abnormal facial features, growth deficiencies, and central nervous system (CNS) problems.

The Constitution, Article II, Section 12 provides that the "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 labeling of products containing alcohol.

Premises considered, approval of this bill is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Marcelino R. Teodoro".

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 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 2013."

SEC. 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 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 effects; and
- C) "Department" means the Department of Health.

SEC. 3. *Packaging Requirement.* – Any person who offers any alcoholic beverage for sale shall include a clear, conspicuous, and easily readable warning on the packaging or 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."

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

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

SEC. 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 provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

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

Approved,