

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Philippines

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2121



INTRODUCED BY REP. MARCELINO "MARCY" R. TEODORO

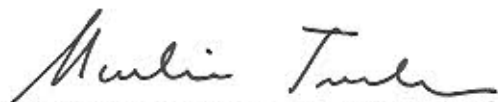
EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to improve the existing health warnings on cigarette packaging. As the said warnings promote health awareness to cigarette smokers, the objective of this measure is to instill environmental awareness by adding another label in cigarette packages informing the consumer to dispose the cigarette litter properly, like other garbage such as plastic candy wrappers.

Article 11 Section 16 of the Constitution provides:

"Section 16. The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature."

Thus, immediate passage of this bill is hereby sought.


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

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AN ACT
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9211 OR "THE TOBACCO REGULATION ACT OF
2003," SECTION 13, ON WARNING ON CIGARETTE PACKAGES

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

SECTION 1. Section 13 of The Tobacco Regulation Act of 2003 is hereby further
amended to read as follows:

"Section 13. *Warnings on Cigarette Packages.* – Under this Act:

- a) All packages in which tobacco products are provided to consumers withdrawn from the manufacturing facility of all manufacturers or imported into the Philippines intended for sale to the market, starting 1 January 2004, shall be printed, in either English or Filipino, on a rotating basis or separately and simultaneously, the following health warnings:

"GOVERNMENT WARNING: Cigarette Smoking is Dangerous to your Health"

"GOVERNMENT WARNING: Cigarettes are Addictive"

"GOVERNMENT WARNING: Tobacco Smoke Can Harm your Children" or

"GOVERNMENT WARNING: Smoking Kills"

- b) Upon effectivity of this Act until 30 June 2006, the health warning shall be located on the side panel of every tobacco product package and occupy not less than fifty percent (50%) of such side panel including any border or frame.
- c) Beginning 1 July 2006, the health warning shall be located on the bottom portion of one (1) front panel of every tobacco product package and occupy not less than thirty percent (30%) of such front panel including any border or frame.
- d) The warnings shall be rotated periodically, or separately and simultaneously printed, so that within any twenty-four (24) month period, the four (4) variations of the warnings shall appear with proportionate frequency.
- e) The warning shall not be hidden or obscured by other printed information or images, or printed in a location where tax or fiscal stamps are likely to be applied to the package or place in a location where it will be damaged when the package is opened. If the warning to be printed on the packages is likely to be obscured or obliterated by a wrapper on the package, the warning must be printed on both the wrapper and the package.

- f) In addition to the Health Warning, all packages of tobacco products that are provided to consumers shall contain on one side panel, the following statement in a clear, legible and conspicuous manner: "NO SALE TO MINORS" or "NOT FOR SALE TO MINORS." The statement shall occupy an area of not less than ten percent 10% of such side panel and shall appear in contrast by color, typography or layout with all the other printed material on the side panel.
- g) IN ADDITION TO THE HEALTH WARNING AND THE MESSAGE REQUIRED IN THE PRECEDING PARAGRAPH, ALL PACKAGES OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS THAT ARE PROVIDED TO CONSUMERS SHALL CONTAIN, ON THE SIDE PANEL OPPOSITE OF WHICH THAT CONTAINS THE MESSAGE REQUIRED IN THE PRECEDING PARAGRAPH, THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT IN A CLEAR, LEGIBLE AND CONSPICUOUS MANNER: "PLEASE DISPOSE OF ALL CIGARETTE WASTE PROPERLY. DO NOT LITTER." THE STATEMENT SHALL OCCUPY AN AREA AND APPEAR AS THE MESSAGE IN THE PRECEDING PARAGRAPH.
- h) No other printed warnings, except the health warning and the MESSAGES required in this Section, PARAGRAPHS (F) AND (G), shall be placed on cigarette packages."

SEC. 2. *Separability Clause.* — If any provision of this Act or any part hereof shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions, as far as they are separable, shall remain in force and effect.

SEC. 3. *Repealing Clause.* — All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 4. *Effectivity Clause.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,