

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
CONGRESS OF THE PHILIPPINES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4737



Introduced by CHRISTOPHER S. CO and RODEL M. BATOCABE,
both of AKO BICOL PARTY LIST

EXPLANATORY NOTE

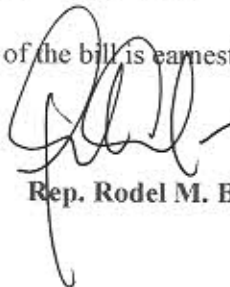
This bill seeks to implement the Government's initiative on the reform of alcohol legislation. Excessive drinking and intoxication is contributing to high crime rate, injury rate and road crash statistics and is affecting the nation's overall level of health. Excessive drinking also impacts on absenteeism and workplace productivity and contributes to family violence and child abuse. Alcohol is estimated to contribute to thousand deaths a year, and is implicated in the high percentages of all police recorded offences, recorded family violence, and all homicides. It is estimated that during week-ends, up to 70 percent of injury-based emergency department medical cases are alcohol related.

The direct costs to the taxpayer of alcohol-related harm have been estimated to be millions of pesos per annum. Regulation alone will not turn excessive drinking culture around and this bill will therefore be supported by robust public education and treatment interventions. Legislative settings can, however, support a safe and responsible drinking culture through controls on the availability of alcohol, requirements for safe and responsible licensed premises, and the management of alcohol in public.

With this mandate, local government units, communities, households, business establishments and schools are urged to participate in the nationwide program against alcoholism. Given that alcoholism is an addiction, this bill seeks to provide a community-based prevention and control, and strengthens existing policies that are already being implemented by the DOH and local government units (LGUs).

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


Rep. Christopher S. Co


Rep. Rodel M. Batocabe

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 4737

Introduced by Rep. Christopher S. Co and Rep. Rodel M. Batocabe, both of Ako Bicol PartyList

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR THE CONTROL OF ALCOHOLISM, PRESCRIBING PENALTIES FOR
VIOLATION THEREOF 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-Alcoholism Act of 2014".

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 alcoholism shall be provided.

Section 3. National Alcoholism Prevention and Control Program. - It is hereby mandated that there shall be a National Alcoholism Prevention and Control Program to be implemented by a multi-agency/multi-sectoral committee chaired by the National Center for Disease Prevention and Control of the Department of Health. The program shall be a multi-agency effort in controlling Alcoholism in the country. Among its component activities include: (1) institutionalization of regular sessions for alcoholic support system groups; (2) encouragement of awareness and prevention programs; (3) provision of consultation at the nearest health centers; and (4) conduct of information and education campaign on the prevention and control of Alcoholism. 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 the Metro Manila Development Authority (MMDA), Local Government Units (LGUs) with the assistance of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and People's Organizations (POs).

Section 4. Responsibilities of Government Agencies. - The following government agencies, which shall jointly implement the National Alcoholism Prevention and Control Program, shall be tasked to:

A. Department of Health:

- (1) Improve and upgrade existing laboratory diagnostic capabilities to ensure better services to the people.
- (2) stimulate the development, improvement and implementation of new strategies and interventions to improve our understanding of alcoholism;
- (3) Design projects and studies to help identify ways to better describe the impact of alcoholism, reduce incidence of alcoholism, medical complications and case fatality rates;
- (4) Implementation and evaluation of train-the-trainer program to instruct healthcare providers on the clinical management of alcoholism; and
- (5) Design hospital-based surveillance systems for alcohol related illnesses and injuries;
- (6) Coordinate with the DepEd in the development of appropriate health education strategy to inform the public on Alcoholism prevention and control;
- (7) Encourage collaborative activities with the DOST, DepEd, DILG, DENR, NGOs, POs and other concerned sectors.

B. Barangays and other LGUs. - All Barangays shall be required to:

- (1) Ensure that all households and establishments comply with their responsibilities within their respective areas;
- (2) Allocate funds to augment the implementation of the National Alcoholism Prevention and Control Program;
- (3) Enact additional local ordinances that will support the National Alcoholism Prevention and Control Program and initiate programs in which should include awareness campaign and preventive measures
- (4) For purposes of ensuring the administrative feasibility of implementing the provisions of this Act, the LGU shall collect the fines. Any and all fines collected pursuant to this Act shall be used for the enhancement of the National Alcoholism Prevention and Control Program within the locality concerned, as well as the achievement of the objectives envisioned in this Act.

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

C. Department of Education

- (1) Strengthen Alcoholism education program through school health teaching/curriculum;
- (2) Report to the school clinic if any student, faculty, or staff shows any signs and symptoms of alcoholism, and coordinate with health centers, hospitals, or DOH of any of alcoholic-related cases;
- (3) Encourage collaborative activities and information-sharing with the DOH, DILG, DENR, NGOs, POs and other concerned sectors;
- (4) Integrate proper information and education in the relevant subjects in the Elementary and High School levels; and
- (5) Implement other preventive actions that the Department of Health may provide.

Sec. 5. Assistance of NGOs and the Academe. - The agencies tasked to implement the anti-Alcoholism program shall seek the assistance and participation of NGOs in any of the following activities:

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

Section 6. Penalties. - Households, establishments and schools who fail or refuse to comply with their mandates mentioned above shall be punished by a fine of Two thousand pesos (P2,000.00).

Section 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The DA, in coordination with the DOH, DILG, DepEd, DENR, 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 sourced from the incremental revenue derived from Republic Act 10351 or the "Sin Tax Law of 2012" with emphasis on alcoholism awareness programs, for medical assistance and health enhancement facilities program, the annual requirements of which shall be determined by the Department of Health (DOH). For the LGUs, the requirements shall be taken from their Internal Revenue Allotment and other local funds.

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: