

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

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS

Third Regular Session

House Bill No. **5919**



Introduced by **Rep. EVELIO R. LEONARDIA**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Safe and clean drinking water is a basic human need that even if a person stays outside of his home the necessity to supplement his body of this natural element, especially when during and after taking a meal or food in business establishments or outlets.

However, it has been the practice of some food establishments either in the operation of restaurants or simply eatery outlets that during and/or after their customers ordered meal or food either for a monetary consideration or for free, no drinking water is being served or, worse, such establishments would yet sell such necessity to their customers.

Thus, to instill both humanitarian responsibility and social and civic duty to the public consumers, away from any form of commercialism or a subtle profit-making scheme, there is a need to enact a law to make the serving of a free safe and clean drinking water to the customers of restaurants and food outlets.

As such, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


REP. EVELIO R. LEONARDIA
Lone District, Bacolod City

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AN ACT
MANDATING RESTAURANTS AND FOOD OUTLETS TO SERVE FREE SAFE
AND CLEAN DRINKING WATER TO THEIR CUSTOMERS

SECTION 1. This Act shall be known as the “Free Drinking Water Act”

SECTION 2. For purposes of this Act the following shall be the definition of terms:

Drinking Water – a safe and clean water for human consumption either processed for its purification through distillation or in whatever means to obtain its purity, cleanliness, and sanitation.

Restaurant – business establishment for refreshment or dining that caters food for the general public either for free or with a monetary consideration operating independently by itself or within or inside another establishment like hotels, motels, professional clubs and the like. Hotel, Motel, Inn, lodging house and the like similarly falls in this definition with regard to their check-in customers in the duration of their stay.

Food Outlet – is a business entity that caters food either for free or with monetary consideration in short order, single serving, quick orders, or by vending any food in stalls situated in malls, shopping centers, transportation terminals such as airports, bus station, train station, shipping terminals, and the like, and other private business establishments. This entity shall likewise cover that similar activity in the airplane, bus, train, ship, and other similar vehicles of transport under Philippine registry whose travel may be outside the territorial jurisdiction of the Philippines, or those similar vehicles of transport of foreign registry that travel within the Philippine jurisdiction.

Customer -- the consumer or patron of restaurant and/or food outlet who shall include the passenger of any vehicle of transport.

SEC. 3. All restaurants and food outlets are mandated to serve free safe and clean drinking water to their customers regardless whether the catered food services was for free or for a monetary or valuable consideration.

SEC. 4. The Philippine Information Agency (PIA), in coordination with the Department of Trade and Industry, the Department of Health, and the Department of Transportation and Communication, shall ensure the effective information dissemination of this Act.

SEC. 5. Restaurant and food outlets and all those covered in their definitions shall post their notice of free safe and drinkable water service in the conspicuous place of their respective premises.

SEC. 6. Violation of this Act shall constitute the penalty of a fine of Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00) and/or imprisonment of not more than six (6) months or both. When the offense is committed by corporation or partnership, there shall be a prima facie evidence of joint responsibility on both the employees concerned and the corporate officers or partners. Likewise the same prima facie evidence of joint responsibility on both the employees concerned and the proprietor in regard to a single proprietorship.

SEC. 7. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,