

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7273



Introduced by **HON. LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.**

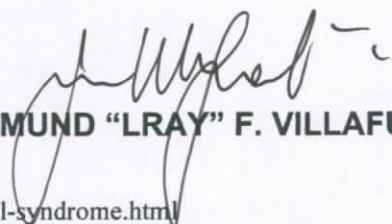
EXPLANATORY NOTE

An alcohol-exposed pregnancy is risky for both unborn babies and their mothers, and could permanently compromise the central nervous system of a developing baby. Drinking alcohol during pregnancy can cause Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS) and has been proven to increase the risk of miscarriage, stillbirth, prematurity or even sudden infant death¹.

Improving maternal health and reducing child mortality has been a priority in the Philippine health system. This commitment is manifested in the country's legislation such as the "Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) Law of 2001" and the "Barangay Level Total Protect of Children Act of 1990", as well as current lobbying efforts in Congress such as the First 1,000 Days bill. The Department of Health has in turn translated this commitment to mothers and children with programs such as the "Safe Motherhood Program" which provides maternal and newborn health services.

This bill intends to add to the efforts the country has demonstrated in protecting the welfare of our mothers and children. It proposes to require any alcoholic beverage for sale to include a clear, conspicuous, and easily readable warning on the packaging or in the business establishment selling these goods about the risks an alcohol-exposed pregnancy and FAS poses to unborn children and their mothers. A penalty of Php 10,000.00 shall be imposed on those who violate this Act.

The approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


LUIS RAYMUND "LRAY" F. VILLAFUERTE, JR.

¹ <http://cnnphilippines.com/lifestyle/2018/02/07/fetal-alcohol-syndrome.html>

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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 2018".

SECTION 2. Definition of Terms. – As used in this Act, the terms herewith shall mean the following:

- 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) Alcohol 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.

SECTION 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.”

SECTION 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 (Php 10,000.00) for each day the permit holder remains in violation.

SECTION 5. Separability Clause. – If any provision or part thereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 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.

SECTION 7. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,