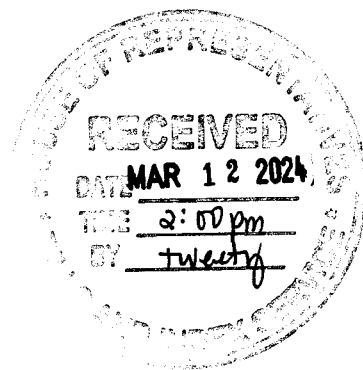




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **10119**



Introduced by Representative Crispin Diego “Ping” D. Remulla

AN ACT
PROHIBITING PRODUCERS AND MANUFACTURERS OF BABY FOOD FROM
ADDING SUGAR TO THEIR PRODUCTS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 15 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution mandates the state to protect and promote the right to health, particularly among children. This Act is aimed at ensuring the health and well-being of infants and young children by strictly prohibiting the addition of sugar to baby foods - a direct response to the escalating concerns over the rising rates of childhood obesity and its associated health complications in the country.

The 8th National Nutrition Survey highlighted a concerning increase in the prevalence of overweight children, with rates rising from 1% in 1989 to 5% in 2013 for children aged 0-5 years.¹

¹<https://www.who.int/philippines/news/feature-stories/detail/addressing-childhood-obesity-in-the-philippines>

The World Health Organization has consistently warned against the detrimental effects of added sugars in the diets of infants and young children, including a heightened risk of developing obesity, dental issues, and type 2 diabetes later in life.

This legislative measure reinforces the Philippine government's commitment to safeguarding public health, particularly the health of vulnerable children, by fostering a healthier food environment that supports their growth and development without exposing them to unnecessary health risks.

In view of the foregoing, the approval of this measure is earnestly sought.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'CD Remulla', is positioned above the printed name.

CRISPIN DIEGO “PING” D. REMULLA



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

1 **SECTION. 1. Title.** This Act shall be known as “No-Added Sugar on Baby Foods Act”

2 **SEC. 2. Definition of Terms.** For purposes of this Act the following terms shall mean:

3 a) Baby Food - refers to all consumed food other than breastmilk that is made specifically
4 for older infants and young children aged beyond six (6) months to thirty-six (36)
5 months old.

6 b) Older infant - refers to a person aged 6 - 12 months old.

7 c) Producer/Manufacturer - one who produces imports, trades in, or distributes baby food.

8 d) Regulatory requirements - the provisions of all applicable laws, regulations, executive
9 orders, and other enactments related to food quality and safety, purity, nutritional
10 composition, and other aspects of food regulation or control.

11 e) Young children - refers to a person aged 12 - 36 months old.

12 **SEC. 3. Ban On Added Sugar in Baby Food.** No person or entity shall manufacture,
13 sell, import, or distribute in commerce any baby food containing added sugar.

1 The imposition of no-added sugar baby food shall not prejudice the quality and safety
2 of their food products for children. All baby food shall be labeled in accordance with the
3 requirements prescribed by the FDA.

4 **SEC. 4. Public Information.** - The benefits and rationale of the use of no added sugar
5 baby food shall be adequately disseminated and promoted through organized, systematic, and
6 nationwide information campaign which shall involve major sectors of society to be
7 spearheaded by the DOH, in cooperation and coordination with the LGUs and other agencies
8 concerned.

9 **SEC. 5. Penalties for Violation.** - Whenever it is found that a baby food contains added
10 sugar, the DOH shall, after due notice and hearing, make the appropriate order for its recall,
11 prohibition, or seizure from public sale or distribution. Any person natural or juridical, who
12 shall violate Section 3 of this Act shall be subject to a fine not less than Three Hundred
13 Thousand Pesos (P300,000.00) but not more than Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P500,000.00)
14 or by imprisonment of not less than one (1) year but not more than five (5) years or both, upon
15 the discretion of the court. In case the offender is a juridical person, the President, Secretary,
16 Treasurer and such other officers or persons responsible for the offense, shall be liable for the
17 penalty of imprisonment. If the seller, distributor or manufacturer of the injurious baby
18 containing added sugar is a foreigner, he shall be deported after service of sentence and
19 payment of fine without further deportation proceedings.

20 **SEC. 6. Appropriations.** - The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act
21 shall initially be charged to the appropriations of the agencies concerned as may be
22 appropriated, under the current General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such amount as may
23 be necessary for its implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations
24 Act.

1 **SEC. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - Within sixty days (60) days from the
2 effectivity of this Act, the DOH shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the
3 effective implementation of this Act: Provided, that the DOH may call upon any agency to
4 provide information or assistance in the drafting of the rules and regulations.

5 **SEC. 8. Separability Clause.** – If any part, section or provision of this Act is held
6 invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and
7 effect.

8 **SEC. 9. Repealing Clause.** – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts
9 thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

10 **SEC. 10. Effectivity Clause.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
11 publication in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

12
13 Approved,