

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

**NINETEENTH CONGRESS**  
Third Regular Session

House Bill No. 11001



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*Introduced by Honorable Ma. Alana Samanta Taliño Santos*

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**AN ACT PROHIBITING THE SALE OF OVER-THE-COUNTER WEIGHT LOSS  
SUPPLEMENTS TO MINORS**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Over the years, the use of medically unapproved and non-prescribed weight loss drugs and supplements has been a rising public health concern. A 2024 systematic global review revealed that one out of ten adolescents have been using a medically unapproved weight loss product.

Young Filipinos are especially susceptible to trying out cosmetic weight loss with the increasing exposure and influence of social media. In this digital age, social media is now an essential part of these young people's lives and it governs their interpersonal relationships. Social media affinity also influences their body image and dissatisfaction.

In various digital platforms, there are countless content surrounding personalities and celebrities promoting diet fads, along with their reported usage of the increasingly popular glucagon-like peptide-1 (GLP-1) semaglutide drugs like Ozempic and Wegovy. While usage of these cosmetic weight loss drugs has been extensively studied, it is worth noting that they have recently been just approved. Medication still poses serious side effects such as nausea, gastrointestinal and muscle mass problems. Yet the drug's popularity is still increasing. Off-brand, unregulated, and generic versions flood the market.

As a response, several countries have placed restrictions on access for unregulated cosmetic weight loss products. Despite the multiple public health warnings placed by the country's Food and Drug Administration (FDA), these products remain primarily unregulated and openly accessible on social media.

This measure imposes greater restriction on the sale of over-the-counter (OTC) weight loss products for people under eighteen (18) years of age, mandating a clear sign readable in their place businesses that its sale for minors is prohibited by law.

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

**MA. ALANA SAMANTHA TALINO SANTOS**

Representative  
3rd District, Cotabato Province

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

**SECTION 1. *Definition.*** - For the purposes of this Act, “over-the-counter weight loss supplements” means any product intended for the purpose of weight loss that is sold without the need of a prescription.

**SECTION 2. *Prohibition.*** - Any person operating a place of business where over-the-counter weight loss supplements are sold or offered for sale is prohibited from selling such products to individuals under eighteen (18) years of age.

**SECTION 3. *Sign.*** - Any person operating a place of business where over-the-counter weight loss supplements are sold or offered for sale shall post in a conspicuous place a sign upon which there shall be imprinted the following statement, "Sale of over-the-counter weight loss supplements to persons under eighteen years of age is prohibited by law." Such a sign shall be printed on a white card in red letters at least one-half inch in height.

**SECTION 4. *Penalty.*** - Any person who violates section 2 and 3 of this Act shall be penalized with a fine of not less than Fifty Thousand Pesos (P 50,000.00) but not more than Two Hundred thousand Pesos (P 200,000.00). For succeeding offenses, the establishment shall be meted the penalty of revocation of license to operate a business. If the violation of any provisions of this Act is committed by a corporation, partnership, association or similar entity, the president, general manager or most senior officers shall be held liable for the offense.

**SECTION 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - The Department of Health (DOH), in coordination with the Food and Drugs Administration (FDA), shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations of this Act within one hundred twenty (120) days after the passage of this Act.

**SECTION 5. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision of this Act is declared to be unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

**SECTION 6. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,