

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 527



Introduced by Representative Reynante U. Arrogancia

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to regulate and restrict the access of the youth to alcoholic beverages. Article 2, Section 13 of the 1987 Constitution states:

The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. It shall inculcate in the youth patriotism and nationalism, and encourage their involvement in public and civic affairs.

The State must protect the nation's youth from the effects of factors detrimental to their development and progress. Underage drinking poses a risk to the individual and society. The exposure of adolescents to alcohol can lead to poor brain development and is associated with risky behavior.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has reported that the harmful use of alcohol accompanies a high burden of disease and significant social and economic consequences. The harmful consumption of alcohol has been determined as the causal factor of more than 200 diseases including mental and behavioral disorders, alcohol dependence and major non communicable diseases.¹

As a public health priority, reducing the harmful use of alcohol should include regulating and restricting the availability of alcohol especially among the youth. Based on the 2021 Expanded National Nutrition Survey (ENNS) of the DOST-FNRI, an approximate of 13.2 percent of Filipino adolescents between the ages of 10 and 19 are currently drinking and consuming alcohol. The same report found that the percentage is significantly higher among male teenagers at 16.1 percent, whereas female teenagers is reported at 10.4 percent.² Furthermore harmful consumption of alcohol have severe consequences resulting in violence, injury and crime.³

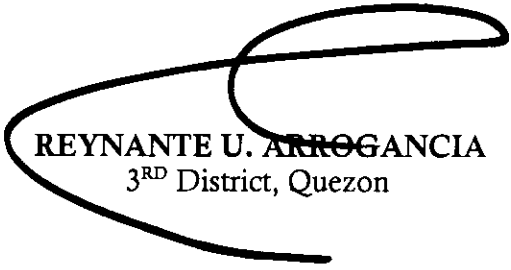
This bill seeks to curtail the progression of alcohol abuse and dependence, including its inherent risks, by prohibiting the access of minors to alcohol, penalizing establishments that sell and penalizing those who provide access of alcohol to minors.

¹ <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/alcohol>

² <https://www.fnri.dost.gov.ph/images/sources/digest/2ndQtr2024.pdf>

³ https://www.euro.who.int/__data/assets/pdf_file/0003/247629/Alcohol-and-Inequities.pdf

Bills of similar nature have been filed in the previous Congresses. It is hoped that in the 20th Congress, this bill will finally become a law. In view of the foregoing, this representation seeks approval of this bill.



REYNANTE U. ARROGANCIA
3RD District, Quezon

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AN ACT
PROHIBITING THE ACCESS OF MINORS TO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGE AND
PENALIZING INDIVIDUALS AND ESTABLISHMENTS THAT FURNISH
ALCOHOL TO MINORS

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “Anti-Underage Drinking
2 Act.”
3

4 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-
5 building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and
6 social well-being. Towards this end, the State shall undertake efforts to eliminate alcohol
7 abuse and reduce underage drinking by prohibiting minors’ access to alcohol.
8

9 **SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.*** – For purposes of this Act, the following items are hereby
10 defined:
11

- 12 (a) “Alcohol” – shall refer to alcoholic beverages classified into beer, wine and
13 distilled spirits, the consumption of which produces intoxication.
14
- 15 (b) “Establishment” – shall refer to a place used for commercial purposes, such as
16 bars, restaurants, dance clubs, hotels, retail stores, supermarkets, and other
17 places with common business areas.
18
- 19 (c) “Minor”: – refers to a person below eighteen (18) years of age or those over but
20 are unable to fully take care of themselves or protect themselves from abuse,
21 neglect, cruelty, exploitation or discrimination because of a physical or mental
22 disability or condition as defined in Republic Act No. 7610 or the Special
23 Protection of Children Against Abuse, Exploitation and Discrimination Act.

24 **SEC. 4. *Prohibited Acts.*** - The following acts are prohibited:

- 25
26 (1) To sell or allow the purchase of alcoholic or intoxicating beverage to minors;
27 (2) To cause a minor to purchase alcoholic or intoxicating beverage;
28 (3) The consumption of alcoholic or intoxicating beverage by a minor;
29 (4) The sale of alcoholic or intoxicating beverage by a minor;
30 (5) Misrepresentation of one's age by presenting false identification or otherwise
31 represent themselves as being of legal age to purchase alcoholic or intoxicating
32 beverage;
33 (6) Selling, giving, or otherwise providing alcohol to minors by an establishment which
34 is licensed to sell alcoholic beverages, or for any employee of that licensee, to sell
35 or furnish any alcoholic beverages at any time to a person under 18 years of age.
36

37 **SEC. 5. *Penalties*** -

- 38
39 (1) Any person of legal age or establishment violating the provisions of this law are
40 subject to fines of ten thousand pesos (Php10,000) for the first offense and fifty
41 thousand pesos (Php50,000) for every succeeding offense.
42 (2) Any minor who violated Sec. 4 hereof shall be required to render community
43 service thru rehabilitative counseling under the social welfare and development
44 office of the city or municipality concerned with the assistance of the Department
45 of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD). The identity of the minor shall at
46 all times remain confidential.
47 The DSWD shall issue guidelines on the implementation of Section 5 (2) including
48 the assistance and care to be provided to the minor and the minor's parents or
49 guardian.
50

51 **SEC. 6. *Appropriations.*** - The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act
52 shall be charged against the appropriations of the Department of Social Work and
53 Development (DSWD). Thereafter, such sum as may be necessary for its full
54 implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.
55

56 **SEC. 7. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or
57 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall
58 remain valid and subsisting.
59

60 **SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.*** - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order,
61 letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or is inconsistent
62 with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.
63

64 **SEC. 9. *Effectivity Clause.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication
65 in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.
66

67 *Approved,*