



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2773



**Introduced by Representatives Ferdinand Martin G.
Romualdez, Andrew Julian K. Romualdez, Yedda Marie K.
Romualdez, and Jude A. Acidre**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Poor nutrition among Filipino schoolchildren remains a pressing public health concern, contributing to rising rates of obesity, malnutrition, and preventable diseases. Despite existing school feeding programs, unhealthy food options remain widely available in and around schools.

This bill seeks to institutionalize healthy food policies in all basic education institutions by regulating the sale, marketing, and provision of food and beverages in school premises. It aims to promote proper nutrition, instill lifelong healthy eating habits, and align school practices with the goals of DepEd Order No. 13, s. 2017 and national health priorities.

This is one of the bills proposed during the first Eastern Visayas Young Leaders Parliament held on December 11–15, 2024.

Immediate passage of this measure is urged to safeguard the health and well-being of Filipino learners.



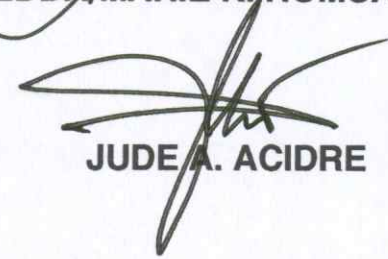
FERDINAND MARTIN G. ROMUALDEZ



ANDREW JULIAN K. ROMUALDEZ



YEDDA MARIE K. ROMUALDEZ



JUDE A. ACIDRE



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Twentieth Congress
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 2773

Introduced by Representatives Ferdinand Martin G.
Romualdez, Andrew Julian K. Romualdez, Yedda Marie K.
Romualdez, and Jude A. Acidre

AN ACT
PROHIBITING THE SALE, DISTRIBUTION, PROMOTION, OR
ADVERTISEMENT OF UNHEALTHY FOODS AND SUGAR-
SWEETENED BEVERAGES IN, AND WITHIN ONE HUNDRED (100)
METERS FROM, ALL PUBLIC AND PRIVATE BASIC EDUCATION
SCHOOLS, PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

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

Section 1. Title – This Act shall be known as the “**Healthy Schools
Food Environment Act**”

Section 2. Declaration of State Policy –The State recognizes the
need to address childhood obesity and other diet-related health risks by
restricting the exposure and access of children to unhealthy food and
beverages in and around educational institutions. It is hereby declared the
policy of the State to protect the health and well-being of children by
promoting healthy food environments in schools.

Section 3. Coverage. - This Act shall apply to all public and private basic education institutions, including daycare centers, kindergartens, elementary schools, junior high schools, and senior high schools operating under the supervision of the Department of Education (DepEd), local government units (LGUs), or duly recognized private educational institutions.

Moreover, the prohibitions under this Act shall cover all areas within school premises, including classrooms, canteens, school grounds, auditoriums, gymnasiums, libraries, administrative offices, and any space where students have regular access.

Section 4. Definition of Terms. – For the purposes of this Act, the following terms shall be defined as follows:

- a) Basic Education Institutions refer to public and private schools offering any level of basic education, including daycare centers, kindergartens, elementary schools, junior high schools, and senior high schools, whether operated by the Department of Education (DepEd), local government units (LGUs), or duly recognized private educational institutions.
- b) School Premises include all areas within the physical boundaries of a basic education institution, such as classrooms, canteens, school grounds, gymnasiums, libraries, administrative offices, hallways, and any space regularly accessed by students.
- c) Buffer Zone refers to the area covering a one hundred (100)-meter radius measured outward from the boundary of the school premises, including adjacent sidewalks, streets, alleys, and commercial or residential establishments located within this distance.
- d) Unhealthy Food refers to any food or beverage product determined by the Department of Health (DOH), in coordination with the Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI), as high in saturated fat, trans fat, sodium, or added sugar, and low in essential nutrients, based on an evidence-based nutrient profiling system.
- e) Sugar-Sweetened Beverages (SSBs) refer to non-alcoholic beverages with added caloric sweeteners, including but not limited to sweetened soft drinks, fruit drinks, energy drinks, sweetened teas and coffees, flavored water, and other similar products.
- f) Sale, Distribution, Promotion, or Advertisement refers to any activity involving the commercial offering of goods, giving away of free

samples, marketing, brand visibility, sponsorships, endorsements, signage placement, or use of digital or printed media to encourage the purchase or consumption of unhealthy food or sugar-sweetened beverages.

- g) School-Sanctioned Activities refer to events, programs, or functions officially organized, endorsed, or required by the school, whether conducted within or outside school premises, in which students are expected or mandated to participate.

Section 5. Prohibited Acts. - The following acts shall be prohibited within all basic education institutions and their 100-meter buffer zones as defined in this Act:

- 1) The selling, vending, giving away, or provision of unhealthy food and sugar-sweetened beverages to students, school personnel, or visitors within school premises or within 100 meters from the school boundary, regardless of whether the activity is for profit or not.
- 2) The advertising, marketing, sponsorship, or promotion of unhealthy food and sugar-sweetened beverages within schools and their buffer zones through:
 - a. Printed or digital materials;
 - b. Sponsored events or programs;
 - c. Branded educational materials or giveaways;
 - d. Audio or visual broadcasts and social media promotions directly targeting students.
- 3) Schools shall not enter into any partnership, agreement, or sponsorship with manufacturers or sellers of unhealthy food or SSBs for the conduct of school programs, events, contests, scholarships, or infrastructure donations that serve to advertise or promote their products.
- 4) Use of brand logos, mascots, slogans, packaging, or likenesses associated with unhealthy food or beverage products in any form of school merchandise, uniforms, school materials, or campus signage.
- 5) Placing vending machines, kiosks, stalls, carts, or any sales outlet offering prohibited food and beverages inside school grounds or within the 100-meter buffer zone.

- 6) The serving, distribution, or endorsement of unhealthy food and beverages during school-sponsored events, field trips, or off-campus activities where participation is required by the school.

Section 6. Nutrient Profiling System. - The Department of Education (DepEd), in coordination with the Department of Health (DOH) and Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI), shall regularly update a categorized list of food and beverages using a nutrient profiling system, including:

- a) Green list or those foods encouraged for sale and consumption;
- b) Yellow list or those foods to be served occasionally;
- c) Red list or those foods strictly prohibited under this Act.

Only Green and Yellow list items may be allowed for sale or distribution within school premises, subject to guidelines issued by DepEd and DOH.

Section 7. Monitoring, Compliance, and Enforcement. – The Department of Education (DepEd), in coordination with the Department of Health (DOH), the Food and Drug Administration (FDA), and local government units (LGUs), shall be primarily responsible for monitoring and enforcing compliance with the restrictions on the sale, distribution, advertisement, and promotion of unhealthy food and sugar-sweetened beverages within all basic education institutions and their one hundred (100)-meter buffer zones.

Each school shall designate a School Food Environment Compliance Officer who shall be tasked to monitor on-campus food offerings, inspect canteens and school-based food providers, and submit periodic compliance reports to the Schools Division Office.

The DepEd, together with the DOH and the Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI), shall maintain and regularly update a nutrient profiling system categorizing food items into Green (health-promoting), Yellow (to be consumed occasionally), and Red (strictly prohibited) lists. Only Green and Yellow list items may be sold or served within the defined areas.

LGUs, through their health and business licensing offices and in coordination with the barangays, shall assist in monitoring vendors within the buffer zones and ensure their compliance. Furthermore, Local

Government Units are encouraged to enact ordinance to compliment the implementation of this Act in their respective territory.

Section 8. Role of Local School Boards. - The Local School Board, as provided in Republic Act No. 7160 otherwise known as the "Local Government Code of 1991", they shall perform the following roles:

- a) Ensure that the objectives of this Act are reflected in the Local Education Development Plans (LEDPs), School Improvement Plans (SIPs), and relevant local ordinances or resolutions;
- b) May allocate appropriate funding from the Special Education Fund (SEF) to support school-based and community-aligned health promotion programs, teacher and vendor training, and inspection activities;
- c) Work closely with the LGU's permitting offices and barangay councils to monitor, regulate, and, where necessary, restrict the operations of vendors within the 100-meter school buffer zones;
- d) Receive and address reports of violations of this Act, and ensure that schools and vendors found in breach are subject to appropriate actions in accordance with DepEd and LGU enforcement procedures; and
- e) Promote cross-sectoral collaboration to ensure that all local efforts align with national standards and guidelines for healthy school environments;
- f) Perform such other roles as may be prescribed by the implementing rules and regulations and/or related resolutions.

Section 9. Penalties and Sanctions. - To ensure the faithful implementation of this Act, the following penalties shall be imposed on individuals or institutions found to be in violation of its provisions:

a. For School Canteens and In-School Vendors:

First Offense: Written warning and mandatory attendance in a nutrition compliance seminar conducted by the Schools Division Office and local health authorities.

Second Offense: Suspension of canteen operations or vendor access for up to fifteen (15) school days.

Third and Subsequent Offenses: Revocation of canteen concession or vendor permit, and disqualification from reapplication for one (1) school year.

b. For External Vendors within the 100-Meter School Buffer Zone:

First Offense: Issuance of a notice of violation by the barangay or municipal enforcement team and a fine of not less than One Thousand Pesos (₱1,000.00).

Second Offense: Confiscation of non-compliant food items and a fine of not less than Three Thousand Pesos (₱3,000.00).

Third Offense: Revocation or non-renewal of business permit and prohibition from operating within the vicinity of any school for one (1) year.

c. For School Heads or Officials Who Willfully Fail to Enforce the Act:

First Verified Complaint: Written reprimand and submission of a corrective action plan within fifteen (15) days.

Second Verified Complaint: Administrative sanctions in accordance with Civil Service Commission (CSC) rules, which may include suspension of up to thirty (30) days.

Third Verified Complaint: Recommendation for reassignment or replacement, subject to due process.

d. For Local Government Units That Neglect Enforcement Duties. The Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), upon verified complaint and after due investigation, may issue a Show-Cause Order to the concerned LGU official. Continued non-compliance may result in the withholding of certain local government performance-based grants or awards.

Section 10. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - Within 60 days from effectivity of this Act, DepEd, in coordination with DOH, FNRI, and other stakeholders, shall formulate and issue the IRR to operationalize this Act.

Section 11. *Appropriation.* - This section mandates that funding for the initial and continued implementation of the Act be drawn from the current and succeeding appropriations of DepEd and DOH, to be included in the General Appropriations Act (GAA).

Section 7. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the remainder thereof not otherwise affected shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 8. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, letters of instruction, proclamations or administrative regulations that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended, or modified accordingly.

Section 9. *Effectivity.* - Notwithstanding the non-issuance of the implementing rules and regulations, this Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,