

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 3446



Introduced by **HONORABLE RAMON JOLO B. REVILLA III,**
HONORABLE LANI MERCADO-REVILLA, and
HONORABLE BRYAN B. REVILLA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to prohibit any natural person or juridical person from manufacturing, selling, importing, or selling in commercial establishments any baby food containing added sugars. It shall mandate all baby food manufacturers in the country to label their products in accordance with the requirements prescribed by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Moreover, it shall impose a penalty of imprisonment and a fine, both at the discretion of the court, to any person who shall violate such provisions. Added sugars are sugars included during the processing of food. It includes sweeteners, concentrated fruit juices, syrups, and baby food.

According to UNICEF, however, in a study of 1,600 baby food products across Southeast Asia including the Philippines, they found nearly half included added sugars and sweeteners.¹ Moreover, no less than the World Health Organization

¹ UNICEF. New study reveals high sugar and salt content in commercial foods marketed for young children in Southeast Asia. Information retrieved from <https://www.unicef.org/laos/press-releases/new-study-reveals-high-sugar-and-salt-content-commercial-foods-marketed-young>. Dated 14 December 2023

(WHO) reiterated a ban on added sugar in baby food products for children with ages 0 to 36 months due to its adverse impact on the child's oral health.

Excessive sugar intake early in life can lead to cavities, weight gain, and poor eating habits that can lead to lifelong health problems. It must be greatly emphasized that malnutrition is not just being undernourished, but rather includes being overnourished and overweight or obese. As such, we must safeguard the health of every Filipino even during the early stages of life. In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this bill is immediately sought.



RAMON JOLO B. REVILLA III



LANI MERCADO-REVILLA



BRYAN B. REVILLA

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AN ACT
PROHIBITING PRODUCERS AND MANUFACTURERS OF BABY FOOD
PRODUCTS FROM INCLUDING ADDED SUGARS ON THEIR
PRODUCTS AND PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREOF

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** — This Act shall be known as “No Added Sugar on
2 Baby Food Products Act”.

3
4 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** — It is hereby declared the policy of the State
5 to protect and promote the right to health and instill health consciousness among the
6 people. It recognizes the fundamental importance of health as a right and a state
7 responsibility in the promotion of nation-building. Towards this end, the State shall
8 prohibit the inclusion of sugar added in baby food products to greatly take
9 responsibility for securing the health and welfare of our posterity.

1 **SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.** — As used in this Act, the following terms shall
2 mean:

3
4 **(a) Added sugars** refers to a variety of caloric sweeteners, including sugar and
5 many other sweeteners, added during the processing of food, or are
6 packaged as such. It include, such as but not limited, to sugars (free, mono-
7 and disaccharides), sugars from syrups and honey, and sugars from
8 concentrated fruit or vegetable juices that are in excess of the expected
9 from the same volume of One hundred per centum (100%) fruit or
10 vegetable juice of the same type;

11
12 **(b) Baby food** refers to all consumed food, other than breastmilk, that is made
13 specifically for older infants and young children aged six (6) months to
14 thirty-six (36) months old;

15
16 **(c) Older infant** refers to a person aged six (6) to twelve (12) months;

17
18 **(d) Producer/Manufacturer** refers to any natural or juridical person who
19 produces, imports, trades in and/or distributes baby food;

20
21 **(e) Regulatory requirements** refer to the provisions of all applicable laws,
22 regulations, executive orders, and other enactments related to food quality
23 and safety, purity, nutritional composition, and other aspects of food
24 regulation or control; and

25
26 **(f) Young children** refers to a person aged twelve (12) to thirty-six (36)
27 months old.

1 **SEC. 4. *Prohibition of Added Sugar in Baby Food Products.*** — No person
2 or entity shall manufacture, sell, import, and/or distribute in commerce any baby
3 food containing added sugar. The imposition of this Act shall not prejudice the
4 quality and safety of their food products for children. *Further*, That the food shall be
5 labeled in accordance with the requirements prescribed by the Food and Drug
6 Administration (FDA).

7
8 **SEC. 5. *Public Information and Dissemination.*** — The Department of
9 Health (DOH), in coordination and cooperation with other government agencies, and
10 local government units (LGUs), shall adequately disseminate the benefits and
11 rationale of the implementation of no added sugar on baby food products. It shall be
12 promoted through organized, systematic, and nationwide information campaign
13 which shall involve major sectors of society.

14
15 **SEC. 6. *Penalty Clause.*** — Any natural or juridical person who shall violate
16 Section 3 of this Act shall be penalized by a fine of not less than Three hundred
17 thousand pesos (P300,000.00) but not more than Five hundred thousand pesos
18 (P500,000.00) or imprisonment of not less than one (1) year but not more than five
19 (5) years or both, upon the discretion. *Provided*, That in case the offender is a
20 juridical person, the President, Secretary, Treasurer, and such other officers or
21 persons responsible for the offense, shall be criminally liable. *Further provided*, That
22 if the seller, the distributor or manufacturer of the injurious baby food product
23 containing added sugar is a foreigner, he shall be deported after service of sentence
24 and payment of fine without further deportation proceedings.

1 *Provided finally*, That whenever it is found that a baby food product contains
2 added sugar, the FDA shall, after due notice and hearing, make the appropriate order
3 for its recall, prohibition, or seizure from public sale or distribution.
4

5 **SEC. 7. *Appropriations.*** — The amount necessary for the implementation of
6 this Act shall be initially charged to the appropriations of the agencies concerned as
7 may be appropriated under the General Appropriations Act (GAA). Thereafter, such
8 amount as may be necessary for its implementation shall be included in the annual
9 General Appropriations Act.
10

11 **SEC. 8. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** — Within sixty (60) days
12 from the effectivity of this Act, the DOH and DFA, in coordination with other
13 government agency, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the
14 effective implementation of this Act.
15

16 **SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.***— If any provision of this Act shall be declared
17 unconstitutional or Invalid, the other provisions not affected shall remain in full force
18 and effect.
19

20 **SEC. 10. *Repealing Clause.*** — All laws, presidential decrees, executive
21 orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are Inconsistent with or contrary
22 to the provisions of this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.
23

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

Approved,