

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5112



Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE AUDREY KAY T. ZUBIRI**

AN ACT
MANDATING THE USE OF TETHERED CAPS ON SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BEVERAGE CONTAINERS, AMENDING FOR THIS PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9003, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "ECOLOGICAL SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT ACT OF 2000", AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines, an archipelagic nation with a vast coastline, is disproportionately affected by marine plastic pollution. Plastic bottle caps, due to their size and buoyancy, are easily ingested by birds, fish, and other marine animals which leads to injury and death. They also break down into microplastics, which contaminate our water, soil, and even the food we consume. The economic repercussions are also significant, with the tourism and fisheries sectors bearing the brunt of this environmental degradation.

This proposed measure amends Republic Act No. 9003, or the "Ecological Solid Waste Management Act of 2000", to introduce a practical and internationally recognized solution to the problem of loose bottle caps. By requiring that caps remain attached to plastic beverage containers, we can significantly increase the likelihood of their collection and recycling, thereby reducing a persistent source of plastic pollution.

The proposed amendment is patterned after the harmonized European standard UNE-EN-17665¹, which sets forth the obligation for caps to remain joined to plastic bottles and advancing circular economy. This standard has been successfully implemented in several countries, demonstrating its effectiveness in curbing plastic waste.

¹ <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:32023D1060>

This measure is also consistent with our commitment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals, specifically, SDG No. 12 which seeks to ensure sustainable consumption and production and No. 13 which targets strengthening resilience and capacity building for climate change.

By institutionalizing the use of tethered caps, we take a concrete step towards a circular economy, where waste is minimized, and resources are conserved. This bill also reinforces the principle of extended producer responsibility, holding manufacturers accountable for the environmental impact of their products throughout their lifecycle.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



AUDREY KAY T. ZUBIRI
Representative, 3rd District of Bukidnon

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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 “Tethered Plastic Bottle
2 Caps Act of 2025”.

3
4 **Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy.** - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to adopt a
5 systematic, comprehensive, and ecological solid waste management program which shall, in
6 addition to the policies enunciated in Republic Act No. 9003, ensure the following:

- 7
8 a) The reduction of plastic pollution at its source through innovative and sustainable
9 packaging solutions;
10 b) The promotion of a circular economy by designing products that are easily
11 collectible and recyclable; and
12 c) The adoption of best practices and internationally recognized standards in the
13 management of plastic waste.

14
15 **Sec. 3. Definition of Terms.** - Section 3 of Republic Act No. 9003 is hereby amended
16 to include the following terms:
17

1 **"(XX) TETHERED CAP SHALL REFER TO A CAP OR LID THAT REMAINS**
2 **ATTACHED TO A BEVERAGE CONTAINER AFTER IT HAS BEEN**
3 **OPENED, IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STANDARDS SET BY THE**
4 **DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENT AND NATURAL RESOURCES**
5 **(DENR)."**

6
7 **"(YY) SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BEVERAGE CONTAINER SHALL REFER TO**
8 **A PLASTIC CONTAINER, WITH A CAPACITY OF THREE (3) LITERS OR**
9 **LESS, THAT IS DESIGNED TO BE USED ONCE BEFORE BEING**
10 **DISCARDED OR RECYCLED."**

11
12 **Sec. 4. Prohibited Acts.** - Section 48 of Republic Act No. 9003 is hereby amended to
13 add a new subsection:

14
15 "SEC. 48. Prohibited Acts. - The following acts are prohibited:

16
17 ...

18
19 **"(10) THE MANUFACTURE, IMPORTATION, SALE, OR DISTRIBUTION**
20 **OF NON-ENVIRONMENTALLY ACCEPTABLE PACKAGING MATERIALS**
21 **INCLUDING SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BEVERAGE CONTAINERS WITHOUT**
22 **A TETHERED CAP, AFTER THE PERIOD OF COMPLIANCE PROVIDED IN**
23 **THIS ACT."**

24
25 **Sec. 5. Tethered Caps Requirement.** A new section, to be designated as Section 48-
26 A, is hereby inserted after Section 48 of Republic Act No. 9003, to read as follows:

27
28 **"SEC. 48-A. REQUIREMENT FOR TETHERED CAPS ON SINGLE-USE**
29 **PLASTIC BEVERAGE CONTAINERS. - WITHIN TWO (2) YEARS FROM**
30 **THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT, ALL MANUFACTURERS, IMPORTERS,**
31 **AND DISTRIBUTORS OF SINGLE-USE PLASTIC BEVERAGE**
32 **CONTAINERS SHALL ENSURE THAT THEIR PRODUCTS SOLD IN THE**
33 **MARKET ARE EQUIPPED WITH TETHERED CAPS.**

1 THE DENR, IN CONSULTATION WITH THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE
2 AND INDUSTRY (DTI) AND RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS, SHALL
3 ESTABLISH THE TECHNICAL STANDARDS FOR TETHERED CAPS,
4 WHICH SHALL BE PATTERNED AFTER INTERNATIONALLY
5 RECOGNIZED STANDARDS SUCH AS THE UNE-EN-17665."

6
7 **Sec. 6. Penalties.** - Section 49 of Republic Act No. 9003 is hereby amended to read as
8 follows:

9
10 "SEC. 49. Fines and Penalties. - (a) Any person who violates Sec. 48, pars. (1), (2), and
11 (3) of this Act shall, upon conviction, be punished with a fine of not less than Three
12 hundred pesos (P300.00) but not more than One thousand pesos (P1,000.00), or render
13 community service for not less than one (1) day to not more than fifteen (15) days to an
14 LGU where such prohibited acts are committed, or both.

15
16 X X X

17
18 **"(I) ANY PERSON WHO VIOLATES SEC. 48, PAR. (10) OF THIS ACT SHALL**
19 **BE PUNISHED WITH THE FOLLOWING:**

20
21 **"(1) FOR THE FIRST OFFENSE, A FINE OF FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS**
22 **(P50,000.00) FOR EVERY TON OF NON-COMPLIANT PRODUCTS**
23 **MANUFACTURED, IMPORTED, SOLD, OR DISTRIBUTED.**

24
25 **"(2) FOR THE SECOND OFFENSE, A FINE OF ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND**
26 **PESOS (P100,000.00) FOR EVERY TON OF NON-COMPLIANT PRODUCTS**
27 **MANUFACTURED, IMPORTED, SOLD, OR DISTRIBUTED.**

28
29 **"(3) FOR THE THIRD OFFENSE, A FINE OF TWO HUNDRED THOUSAND**
30 **PESOS (P200,000.00) FOR EVERY TON OF NON-COMPLIANT PRODUCTS**
31 **MANUFACTURED, IMPORTED, SOLD, OR DISTRIBUTED, AND THE**
32 **SUSPENSION OF THE MANUFACTURER'S, IMPORTER'S, SELLER'S, OR**
33 **DISTRIBUTOR'S LICENSE TO OPERATE FOR A PERIOD OF ONE (1)**
34 **YEAR.**

1
2 **"IF THE OFFENDER IS A CORPORATION, PARTNERSHIP, OR OTHER**
3 **JURIDICAL ENTITY, THE CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER, PRESIDENT,**
4 **GENERAL MANAGER, MANAGING PARTNER, OR SUCH OTHER**
5 **OFFICER-IN-CHARGE SHALL BE LIABLE FOR THE COMMISSION OF**
6 **THE OFFENSE."**

7
8 **Sec. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - The Department of Environment and
9 Natural Resources (DENR), in consultation with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI),
10 the National Solid Waste Management Commission, local government units, and other
11 concerned stakeholders, shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations of this Act
12 within six (6) months from its effectivity.

13
14 **Sec. 8. Separability Clause.** - If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional
15 or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

16
17 **Sec. 9. Repealing Clause.** - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and
18 regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified
19 accordingly.

20
21 **Sec. 10. Effectivity.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
22 the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

23
24 *Approved,*