

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **5553**



Introduced by Honorable Dr. Edwin Ledesma Cruzado, M.D.

**AN ACT REQUIRING FRONT-OF-PACKAGE WARNING LABELS FOR
PREPACKAGED FOOD PRODUCTS TO GUIDE FILIPINOS IN AVOIDING FOOD
HIGH IN FATS, SALT, OR SUGAR AND TO PROTECT THE RIGHT TO HEALTH**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

At least one in every three Filipinos dies from non-communicable diseases (NCDs), such as coronary heart diseases (CHDs), cerebrovascular disease, diabetes mellitus, and hypertensive disease.¹ CHDs account for 17.1% of the total registered deaths and remain the leading cause of death among Filipinos.²

Filipinos have become more vulnerable to NCDs because of the increased availability and consumption of prepackaged food products that contain unhealthy types of fat or are high in sodium or sugar.³ This is compounded by the fact that the country does not have an effective labelling system to assist Filipinos in avoiding the consumption of unhealthy food.

Nutrition information labels, commonly positioned on the back or side of food packaging, are too complex for many consumers to understand. As much as one third of consumers struggle to comprehend basic information on nutrition labels, with individuals of lower socioeconomic status facing greater difficulty in understanding these labels.⁴ Food packaging serves as a critical

¹ Philippine Statistics Authority, Registered Deaths in the Philippines, 2017, available at <https://psa.gov.ph/vital-statistics/registered-deaths-philippines-2017> (last accessed June 5, 2023); Philippine Statistics Authority, Registered Deaths in the Philippines, 2018, available at <https://psa.gov.ph/content/registered-deaths-philippines-2018> (last accessed June 5, 2023); Philippine Statistics Authority, Registered Deaths in the Philippines, 2019, available at <https://psa.gov.ph/content/registered-deaths-philippines-2019> (last accessed June 5, 2023); Philippine Statistics Authority, Registered Deaths in the Philippines, 2020, available at <https://psa.gov.ph/content/registered-deaths-philippines-2020> (last accessed June 5, 2023); Philippine Statistics Authority, Registered Deaths in the Philippines, 2021, available at <https://psa.gov.ph/content/registered-deaths-philippines-2021-1> (last accessed June 5, 2023).

² Philippine Statistics Authority, Registered Deaths in the Philippines, 2021, available at <https://psa.gov.ph/content/registered-deaths-philippines-2021-1> (last accessed July 10, 2023).

³ Tracy Kuo Lin, et al., *The effect of sugar and processed food imports on the prevalence of overweight and obesity in 172 countries*, 14 GLOBAL HEALTH 35, 2018.

⁴ Sarah Sinclair, et al., *Sociodemographic differences in the comprehension of nutritional labels on food products*, 45,6 JOURNAL OF NUTRITION EDUCATION AND BEHAVIOR 767 (2013).

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. ____

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21 means of communication to educate consumers. With the proliferation of nutrition and health
22 claims on the packaging, many Filipinos are even misled into buying food presumed to be good
23 for their children without realizing that these products contain high sodium, sugar, or saturated
24 and trans-fat content.

25
26 Yet food packaging remains a critical means of communication to educate consumers. To
27 protect the health of Filipinos and instill health consciousness among them and defend the right
28 of children to proper care and adequate nutrition, a legislation mandating front-of-package
29 warning labels (FOPWL) must be enacted. This bill aims to enable Filipinos to make informed
30 food choices and avoid unhealthy food by introducing black octagonal warning labels that
31 highlight excessive amounts of nutrients of concern that are associated with NCDs. FOPWL
32 highlights important information about the product at a glance in a simple, easily understandable
33 visual format and provides an interpretation of the nutrition label found on the back of
34 the package. Highlighting the unhealthy characteristics in food products will help Filipinos,
35 even children, understand that these products should be avoided. It will also help those who
36 already have or are at risk for non-communicable diseases, such as coronary heart disease,
37 hypertension, and diabetes, to avoid products that are high in saturated fats, trans fats, sodium,
38 and sugar for better health outcomes, regardless of socio-economic standing or health literacy.

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40 Thus, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.

41
42 
43 **Hon. Dr. Edwin Ledesma Cruzado, M.D.**
Representative 1st District of Cotabato

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ARTICLE I. GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* This Act shall be known as the “Front-of-Package Warning Label Act of 2025.”

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of all Filipinos, instill health consciousness among them, and to defend the right of children to proper care and nutrition. It is likewise the policy of the state to protect consumers from trade malpractices and from substandard or hazardous products. Towards these ends, the State recognizes the need to enable Filipinos to make informed food choices and avoid prepackaged foods that are high in fats, sodium, and sugar through easy-to-read warning labels.

SECTION 3. *Objectives.* *This Act seeks to:*

- a. Promote informed food purchases and discourage the consumption of prepackaged food with fat, sodium, and sugar content in excess of the prescribed maximum thresholds;
- b. Reduce the risk of overweight and obesity;⁵ and
- c. Reduce morbidity and mortality due to non-communicable diseases.⁶

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

⁵ WHO, GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND FRAMEWORK MANUAL FOR FRONT-OF-PACK LABELLING FOR PROMOTING HEALTHY DIETS 1 (2019)

⁶ Dainius Piras, Statement by the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to health on the adoption of front-of-package warning labelling to tackle NCDs (27 July 2020).

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. ____

Introduced by Honorable Dr. Edwin Ledesma Cruzado, M.D.

- 64 a. **Breastmilk Substitutes** means any food or beverage being marketed or otherwise
65 represented as a partial or total replacement for breastmilk, whether or not suitable for
66 that purpose;⁷
- 67 b. **Calories** refer to the unit of measurement used to determine the amount of energy that
68 a food provides;
- 69 c. **Child** refers to persons below eighteen (18) years of age, or any person eighteen (18)
70 years of age or over, but who is unable to fully take care of themselves or protect
71 themselves because of a physical or mental disability or condition;
- 72 d. **Child-directed marketing** refers to all marketing targeted to or to which children are
73 exposed to, which includes, but is not limited to, marketing that uses: images, sounds or
74 language designed to appeal to children such as cartoon characters, personalities or
75 celebrities that target or address children in their content (licensed or unlicensed),
76 children actors or voices, or references to school or play; toys or book giveaways,
77 competitions or promotional giveaways, buy-one-take one, discounts, and pricing
78 bundle strategies; themes designed to attract children (e.g. fantasy or adventure); games
79 or activities that are likely to be popular with children; or other similar or analogous
80 appeals. Child-directed marketing also includes marketing that is directed to a parent (or
81 another adult) where the end-consumer is a child.⁸
- 82 e. **Complementary Nutritional Information** means any information that may state,
83 suggest, or imply that a food or beverage possesses particular nutritional or health
84 properties, especially, but not limited to, its energy value, protein, fat, carbohydrates,
85 dietary fiber content, critical nutrients, vitamins, minerals, and even assertions of
86 fortification;

⁷ National Code of Marketing of Breastmilk Substitutes, Breastmilk Supplements and Other Related Products, Executive Order No. 51, § 4(a) (1986).

⁸ ASEAN and UNICEF (2023). *Minimum standards and guidelines on actions to protect children from the harmful impact of marketing of food and non-alcoholic beverages in the ASEAN region*.

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. _____

Introduced by Honorable Dr. Edwin Ledesma Cruzado, M.D.

- 87 f. **Food** refers to any substance or product, whether processed, partially processed, or
88 unprocessed, that is intended for human consumption. It includes drinks, chewing gum,
89 water, and other substances that were used as an ingredient or a component in the
90 manufacture, preparation, or treatment of food, such as oils and fats, whether sold alone
91 or incorporated in processed food and/or prepackaged food products
- 92 g. **Front-of-Package Warning Label (FOPWL)** refers to the simplified nutrition
93 information system on the main face of the packaging of prepackaged food products that
94 warns consumers when a product contains excessive amounts of nutrients of concern
95 as prescribed in Section 6 of this Act;⁹
- 96 h. **Health claims** refer to any representation that states, suggests, or implies that a
97 relationship exists between a food or a constituent of that food and health;
- 98 i. **Main face** refers to the part of the packaging that is intended to be displayed, where the
99 sales name and the brand or logo, if any, are recorded in their most relevant forms;
- 100 j. **Marketing** means any form of commercial communication of messages, including
101 those distributed by digital means, that are designed to, or have the effect or likely effect
102 of, increasing the recognition, appeal, and/or consumption of particular products and
103 services, whether directly or indirectly. It includes but is not limited to acts of
104 advertising and promotions of a product or service, including the advertising of
105 corporate social responsibility initiatives, and sponsorships.¹⁰
- 106 k. **Micro, small, and medium enterprise (MSME)** refers to food business operators as
107 defined within the classification of industries by the Department of Trade and Industry
108 (DTI);

⁹ WHO, GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND FRAMEWORK MANUAL FOR FRONT-OF-PACK LABELLING FOR PROMOTING HEALTHY DIETS 11 (2019); FAO& WHO, CODEX ALIMENTARIUS (INTERNATIONAL FOOD STANDARDS) 11 CXG 2-1985 (2021); PAHO, FRONT-OF-PACKAGE LABELING (AS A POLICY TOOL FOR THE PREVENTION OF NONCOMMUNICABLE DISEASES IN THE AMERICAS) 9 (2020).

¹⁰ ASEAN and UNICEF (2022), [DRAFT] *Minimum standards and guidelines on actions to protect children from the harmful impact of marketing of food and non-alcoholic beverages in the ASEAN region*.

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. ____

Introduced by Honorable Dr. Edwin Ledesma Cruzado, M.D.

- 109 l. **Nutrient Profile Model** refers to a tool used to classify or rank foods according to their
110 nutritional composition for reasons related to the prevention of disease and promotion
111 of health;
- 112 m. **Nutrients** refer to any chemical substance normally consumed as a component of a food
113 that: 1) provides energy; and/or 2) is necessary for, or contributes to the growth,
114 development, and maintenance of health and life; and/or 3) the absence of which will
115 cause characteristic chemical or physiological changes to occur;
- 116 n. **Nutrients of concern** refer to those nutrients that, when ingested above the maximum
117 values, are considered risk factors associated with NCDs; these include but are not
118 limited to sugars, sodium, saturated fats, total fats, and calories;¹¹
- 119 o. **Nutrition claim** refers to any representation which states, suggests, or implies that a
120 food has particular nutritional properties, including but not limited to the energy value
121 and to the content of protein, fat, and carbohydrates, as well as the content of vitamins
122 and minerals. The following do not constitute nutrition claims: (a) the mention of
123 substances in the list of ingredients; (b) the mention of nutrients as a mandatory part of
124 nutrition labeling; (c) quantitative or qualitative declaration of certain nutrients or
125 ingredients on the label if required by national legislation;
- 126 p. **Prepackaged food products** refer to any substance, which is intended for human
127 consumption and includes non-alcoholic drinks for human beings, and chewing gum,
128 resulting from the application of physical, chemical, or biological processes to a
129 “primary food commodity”, that is prepared in advance and placed in a container,
130 labelled and ready for sale or distribution, or for catering purposes;
- 131 q. **Saturated fat** refers to fatty acids that contain the maximum number of hydrogens
132 possible, and no carbon-carbon double bonds;

¹¹ Norma Oficial Mexicana 051/2020 [NOM 051/2020], Art. 3.38 (2020) (Mexico).

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. ____

Introduced by Honorable Dr. Edwin Ledesma Cruzado, M.D.

- 133 r. **Sodium** refers to a chemical element that exists naturally in food, associated with other
134 molecular residues or atoms as an ionic bond, forming chemical salts. It is of great
135 importance since it helps to maintain the water and base acid balance of any organism,
136 constituting its most common compound, sodium chloride, or what is usually called
137 table salt. Likewise, there are other sodium salts that are of industrial origin, such as
138 monosodium glutamate (flavor enhancer); sodium benzoate, sodium acetate, sodium
139 bicarbonate (acidity regulators and preservatives); sodium hydroxide, sodium carbonate
140 (acidity regulator); sodium erythorbate (antioxidant), among others. One gram of 'table
141 salt' contains 400mg of sodium (1 gram of sodium is equivalent to 2.5 grams of table
142 salt);
- 143 s. **Sugar** refers to all monosaccharides and disaccharides other than polyols. Most
144 commonly regulated is "free sugar" which refers to monosaccharides and disaccharides
145 added to food and beverages by the manufacturer, cook, and/or consumer, plus sugars
146 that are naturally present in honey, syrups, and juices;
- 147 t. **Sweetener** refers to a substance, whether caloric or non-caloric, intentionally added to
148 a food product to impart sweetness. Caloric sweetener refers to a substance that is sweet
149 and includes sucrose, fructose, and glucose that produces a certain sweetness. Non-
150 caloric sweetener refers to a substance that is artificially or chemically processed that
151 produce a certain sweetness. These are substances which can be directly added to
152 beverages, such as aspartame, sucralose, saccharin, acesulfame potassium, neotame,
153 cyclamates, and other non-nutritive sweeteners approved by the Codex Alimentarius
154 and adopted by the FDA;

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. ____

Introduced by Honorable Dr. Edwin Ledesma Cruzado, M.D.

- 155 u. **Total fat** refers to the total amount of fat in a food product. This includes the saturated
156 fat, trans-fat, monounsaturated, and polyunsaturated fat in a food product;¹²

157 **SECTION 5. *Scope and Application.*** This Act shall apply to all food business operators of
158 prepackaged food products produced, manufactured, imported, distributed, supplied, and
159 advertised or marketed in the territory of the Philippines.

160 **ARTICLE II. FRONT-OF-PACKAGE WARNING LABELS**

161 **SECTION 6. *Mandatory Front-of-Package Warning Labels (FOPWL).*** No person shall sell,
162 manufacture, import, export, or distribute prepackaged food products without FOPWL as
163 prescribed in this Act, when the final composition of the product contains nutrients of concern
164 that exceed the maximum values prescribed under Section 8 of this Act.

165 **SECTION 7. *Form, Size, Placement, and Characteristics of the Warning Labels.*** When the
166 final composition of the prepackaged food product contains critical nutrients or calories in
167 excess of the maximum values under Section 8 of this Act, the packaging shall display a warning
168 label as prescribed by the Food and Drug Authority (FDA), in accordance with the following
169 guidelines:

- 170 a. The packaging must include one warning label for each nutrient in excess of prescribed
171 values, namely:
- 172 i. “HIGH IN SUGAR”;
 - 173 ii. “HIGH IN SODIUM”;
 - 174 iii. “HIGH IN SATURATED FAT”;

¹² US FDA, Interactive Nutrition Facts Label at 1, *available at* https://www.accessdata.fda.gov/scripts/interactivenutritionfactslabel/assets/InteractiveNFL_TotalFat_October2021.pdf (last accessed July 6, 2023).

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. ____

Introduced by Honorable Dr. Edwin Ledesma Cruzado, M.D.

- 175 iv. “HIGH IN TOTAL FAT”;
- 176 b. If the product's calories are in excess of the prescribed values, the package must
- 177 include the following warning label:
- 178 i. “HIGH IN CALORIES”.
- 179 c. If the product contains sweeteners, the package must include the following warning
- 180 label:
- 181 i. “CONTAINS SWEETENERS, NOT RECOMMENDED FOR CHILDREN”.
- 182 d. The warning label for a. and b. of this section shall have the form of black octagons with
- 183 a white edge and capital letters;
- 184 e. The warning label for c. of this section shall have the form of a black rectangle with a
- 185 white edge and with capital letters;
- 186 f. The size of each warning label shall never be less than five percent (5%) of the total area
- 187 of the main face of the packaging. For products in which the main face of the packaging
- 188 is equal to or less than ten (10) square centimeters, it will contain a single octagon that
- 189 will show inside of it how many nutrients of concern above the thresholds the product
- 190 has. The warning label shall be fifteen percent (15%) of the total area of the front of the
- 191 package;
- 192 g. The warning labels shall form part of the packaging, and their full visibility and integrity
- 193 must not be susceptible to being damaged, concealed, obstructed, or changed by any
- 194 package design, feature, or mechanism, or covered by any other markings;
- 195 h. The warning label must be located on the top right edge of the product's main face. If
- 196 the shape of the product is round or cylindrical, it must be at the top center of the
- 197 main face.
- 198 i. If the product has more than one warning label, they must be placed adjacent to each
- 199 other on the product's main face.

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. ____

Introduced by Honorable Dr. Edwin Ledesma Cruzado, M.D.

200 j. For packages with multiple products, the outer packaging, as well as each individual
201 package inside, must also include the warning label.

202 The provisions established in this Section are applied in addition to the existing rules and
203 regulations governing the labeling of prepackaged food products distributed in the
204 Philippines.¹³

205 **SECTION 8. *Maximum Values.*** The maximum values of the nutrients of concern shall be based
206 on the nutrient profile model (NPM) developed by the Department of Health. Pending the
207 development of a local NPM, a conflict-free, evidence-based NPM recommended by the World
208 Health Organization shall be used as the basis for such maximum values.

209 **SECTION 9. *Exemptions.*** Prepackaged food for special therapeutic dietary uses that are
210 formulated for a particular physiological condition or as partial replacement for meals, and
211 culinary ingredients which typically consist of only one nutrient in high purity (cooking oils,
212 table sugars, common table salt, etc.) shall follow their respective labeling requirements and
213 shall be exempted from the obligation to incorporate FOPWL. Breastmilk substitutes shall
214 likewise be exempted from this Act and shall follow the guidelines promulgated by Executive
215 Order No. 51, series of 1986, its implementing rules and regulations, and other pertinent
216 regulations.

217 **SECTION 10. *Prohibition Against Misleading Claims, Child-directed Marketing, and Other***
218 ***Promotional Features in the Packaging.*** Prepackaged food products required to have a warning
219 label under Section 6 of this Act shall not include in their packaging any element or feature
220 that:

¹³ Department of Health, Revised Rules and Regulations Governing the Labeling of Prepackaged Food Products Further Amending Certain Provisions of Administrative Order No. 88-B s. 1984 or the "Rules and Regulations Governing the Labeling of Prepackaged Food Products Distributed in the Philippines," and For Other Purposes (2014).

241 **ARTICLE III. ENFORCEMENT**

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. ____

Introduced by Honorable Dr. Edwin Ledesma Cruzado, M.D.

242 **SECTION 13.** *Certificate of Product Registration.* The FDA shall not issue a Certificate of
243 Product Registration (CPR) or renew an existing CPR to any food manufacturer, distributor, or
244 importer for any product that does not comply with Sections 6, 7, and 10 of this Act.

245 **SECTION 14.** *Inspection Powers and Record-Keeping.* The FDA, through its authorized
246 agents, shall have the power to inspect the premises and records of food manufacturers to
247 determine compliance with this Act. The FDA shall issue inspection procedures and guidelines
248 on record-keeping.

249 **SECTION 15.** *Enforcement for Traditional Markets and Food Service Establishments.* Local
250 government units (LGUs), through an appropriate issuance and in coordination with the FDA
251 and Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), shall establish a mechanism to enforce the
252 provisions of this Act on prepackaged food produced and marketed in traditional markets and
253 food service establishments within their jurisdiction and shall impose penalties for violations
254 thereof.

255 **SECTION 16.** *Enforcement in Retail Stores.* The DTI-Fair Trade Enforcement Bureau (DTI-
256 FTEB), through its authorized agents, shall have the power to inspect the premises of
257 supermarkets, grocery stores, and other retail stores to monitor compliance with Section 12
258 of this Act.

259 **SECTION 17.** *Consumer Complaints.* The FDA or the DTI-FTEB, depending on the violation,
260 may commence an investigation *motu proprio*, upon petition, or upon letter-complaint from any
261 consumer for violations of this Act. Upon finding by the appropriate agency of *prima facie*
262 violation of any provisions of this Act, it may *motu proprio* or upon a verified complaint,

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. ____

Introduced by Honorable Dr. Edwin Ledesma Cruzado, M.D.

commence formal administrative action against the food business operator or any person who appears responsible.

The procedure in the commencement and processing of consumer complaints mentioned in this Section shall follow the existing rules and regulations of the FDA and the DTI-FTEB, whichever may be applicable.

SECTION 18. *Multisectoral Coordination and Civil Society Participation for Enforcement, Monitoring, and Surveillance.* (a) The State recognizes the role of civil society organizations and the private sector in promoting public health. The DOH, FDA, and DOST-FNRI may engage civil society organizations and the private sector, as long as they do not have a conflict of interest and are not affiliated or related to the food and beverage industry, to provide technical assistance in implementing and monitoring the provisions of this Act. The DOH shall develop and implement programs to enable citizen participation in compliance with this Act. (b) Any citizen or civil society, non-government, and grassroots organization is hereby authorized to file an appropriate civil, criminal, or administrative action in the proper courts or administrative body against any public officer who willfully or grossly neglects the performance of a responsibility specifically enjoined by this Act and its implementing rules and regulations, or against any member of the food and beverage industry, including persons working on their behalf, who violates any provision of this Act and its implementing rules and regulations. The court shall exempt such action from the payment of filing fees and shall exempt the plaintiff from the filing of an injunction bond for the issuance of a preliminary injunction. In the event that the plaintiff shall prevail, the court shall award reasonable attorney's fees, moral damages, and litigation costs as appropriate. The administrative, civil, and criminal actions allowed under this paragraph shall be cumulative and shall not preclude any other person from filing a similar action.

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. ____

Introduced by Honorable Dr. Edwin Ledesma Cruzado, M.D.

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ARTICLE IV. FINES AND PENALTIES

291 **SECTION 19.** *Penalties on Prohibition on Misbranded Products.* Any person or food business
292 operator found to have committed any of the prohibited acts under Section 11 of this Act shall
293 be subject to the following penalties:

- 294 a. Imprisonment ranging from one (1) year but not more than ten (10) years or a fine of
295 not less than fifty thousand pesos (P50,000) but not more than five hundred thousand
296 pesos (P500,000), or both, at the discretion of the court
- 297 b. If the offender is a manufacturer, importer, or distributor of any food product,
298 imprisonment of at least five (5) years but not more than ten (10) years and a fine of at
299 least five hundred thousand pesos (P500,000) but not more than five million pesos
300 (P5,000,000) shall be imposed;
- 301 c. An additional fine of one percent (1%) of the economic value or cost of the violative
302 product or violation, or one thousand pesos (P1,000), whichever is higher, shall be
303 imposed for each day of continuing violation;
- 304 d. No person shall be subject to the penalties under this section for having sold, offered for
305 sale or transferred food products in violation of Section 11 if such sale, distribution or
306 transfer, was made in good faith. A sale, distribution, or transfer is presumed to be made
307 in good faith if the seller or distributor has obtained, in writing, a guaranty from the

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. ____

Introduced by Honorable Dr. Edwin Ledesma Cruzado, M.D.

308 person or food business operator from whom the food products were obtained, that said
309 food products are not covered by the requirements under Section 6, 7, and 10 of this
310 Act;

311 Should the offense be committed by a juridical person, the Chairman of the Board of Directors,
312 the president, general manager, or the partners and/or the persons directly responsible therefor
313 shall be penalized.

314 Should the offense be committed by a foreign national, he/she shall, in addition to the penalties
315 prescribed, be deported without further proceedings after service of sentence.

316 In conjunction with the penalties in this section, the Director-General of the FDA may exercise
317 powers as provided by Republic Act No. 3720, as amended by Republic Act No. 9711 and
318 Republic Act No. 10611.

319 Any future amendments to the previously mentioned laws will also apply accordingly.

320 **SECTION 20. *Penalties on Concealment or Obstruction of View of Warning Labels.*** A fine of
321 not more than One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) nor more than One Hundred Fifty Thousand
322 Pesos (P150,000.00), plus the additional fine of not more than One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00)
323 for each day of continuing violation shall be imposed against any trader, retailer and/or their
324 agent, found to have committed any of the prohibited acts under Section 12 of this Act.

325 In addition, the DTI may impose the following penalties:

326 a. The issuance of a Cease and Desist Order (CDO), which shall specify that the trader or
327 retailer and/or their agents shall cease and desist from concealment or obstruction of the
328 view of warning labels and that they shall be required to submit a report of compliance
329 therewith within a reasonable time;

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. ____

Introduced by Honorable Dr. Edwin Ledesma Cruzado, M.D.

- b. A submission of a voluntary assurance of discontinuance of concealment or obstruction of warning labels;
- c. The cancellation of any permit, license, authority, or registration which may have been granted by DTI, or the suspension of the validity thereof, which shall not, however, exceed one year;
- d. The withholding of any permit, license, authority, or registration that is being secured from the DTI;
- e. The submission of a recommendation to the LGU concerned, through proper channels, for the cancellation/suspension of a Mayor's Business Permit; and
- f. Censure.

SECTION 21. *Mitigating and Aggravating Circumstances.* In the imposition of the additional penalty or penalties under Section 20, the gravity of the offense shall be determined from the presence of any one or more of the mitigating or aggravating circumstances below:

- a. Mitigating circumstances:
 - i. Voluntary admission of guilt;
 - ii. Willingness to execute an undertaking to cease and desist from further violating any other Trade and Industry Law in the future; and
 - iii. Any analogous circumstances.
- b. Aggravating circumstances:
 - i. Violation of another Trade and Industry Law while undergoing proceedings pending investigation and mediation for violation of the same or a different Trade and Industry Law;
 - ii. Concealment or attempt to conceal any piece of evidence;

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. ____

Introduced by Honorable Dr. Edwin Ledesma Cruzado, M.D.

- 353 iii. Engagement in trade by a person whose license/ permit or authority had been
354 previously canceled or revoked for violation of any of Trade and Industry Laws,
355 before the lapse of the period for voluntary closure;
356 iv. Failure or refusal to without any valid reason to comply with an undertaking;
357 v. Failure/non-compliance with any preliminary order on a preventive measure;
358 and
359 vi. Any analogous circumstances.

360 **SECTION 22. *Other Penalties.*** In addition to the fines and penalties under Sections 19 and
361 20, the following sanctions may also be imposed:

- 362 a. For violations under Section 11 of this Act:
363 i. The disapproval of an application, suspension, revocation, or cancellation of an
364 existing Certificate of Product Registration or any authorization; and/or
365 ii. Seizure and condemnation, destruction, recall, and/or appropriate disposition of
366 non-compliant food products by the FDA as provided under their mandate.
367 b. For violations under Section 12 of this Act:
368 i. Closure of the business establishment for a period not exceeding one year.

369 **ARTICLE IV. MISCELLANEOUS PROVISIONS**

370 **SECTION 23. *Compliance by Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises.*** The DTI, in
371 coordination with other relevant government agencies and stakeholders, shall develop and
372 implement programs to assist micro, small, and medium-sized food business operators of
373 prepackaged food products.

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. _____

Introduced by Honorable Dr. Edwin Ledesma Cruzado, M.D.

374 **SECTION 24.** *Consumer Information, Education, and Communication.* Health and nutrition
375 literacy, including the importance of nutrition labeling, proper usage, and rationale of the use
376 of FOPWL and other food product labels, and the risks of overconsuming foods that are high
377 in fats, sodium, and sugar, shall be disseminated and promoted through a nationwide
378 information, education, and communication campaign. The DOH shall spearhead the campaign,
379 in cooperation with other concerned government agencies and LGUs. The DOH shall
380 coordinate with the Department of Education to conduct child-specific educational campaigns
381 on nutrition labeling in Philippine schools.

382 **SECTION 25.** *Compliance Monitoring.* Not later than three (3) years after the date of the
383 effectivity of this Act, and annually thereafter, the DOH shall submit to the President of the
384 Philippines and to both Houses of Congress a monitoring report on the compliance of the food
385 and beverage industry with this Act and all related laws, rules, regulations, and ordinances. All
386 reports required under this Act shall be made available to the public primarily via the DOH
387 website and other means to readily access such information.

388 The DOH is hereby authorized to report to Congress any instance of delay or non-compliance
389 by the national agencies and LGUs herein of the timelines in implementing this Act. The DOH
390 is also authorized to demand accountability from such agencies or LGUs for failure to fulfill its
391 duties under this Act, without prejudice to other remedies or penalties and sanctions that are
392 available or may be imposed by law for such delay or non-compliance.

393 **SECTION 26.** *Impact Assessment.* The DOH shall conduct an impact assessment every three
394 (3) years to evaluate the effectiveness of the enforcement of this Act, health, behavioral, and
395 social outcomes, and other matters relevant to the implementation of this Act. The DOH shall
396 include in its budget the conduct of the assessment

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
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House Bill No. ____

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397 **SECTION 27. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).*** Within sixty (60) days from the
398 effectivity of this Act, the DOH, through the Health Promotion Bureau (HPB), together with
399 other relevant government agencies and stakeholders, shall develop the IRR for this Act. Non-
400 issuance of the IRR shall not prevent the implementation of this Act upon its effectivity.

401 **SECTION 28. *Transitory Provisions.*** The provisions set forth in this Act shall be complied
402 with within a term not exceeding six (6) months from the effectivity date.¹⁴

403 **SECTION 29. *Monitoring and Evaluation.*** The DOH, through the FDA, shall report annually
404 or as necessary, to the President and the Congressional Committees on Health, Agriculture and
405 Food, and Trade and Industry on the implementation of this Act.

406 **SECTION 30. *Appropriations.*** The initial amount necessary for the implementation of this Act
407 shall be charged against the current appropriation of all concerned agencies. Thereafter,
408 concerned agencies shall allocate such funds that may be necessary for the continuous
409 implementation of this Act and shall include such sums in the annual General Appropriations
410 Act (GAA) under the respective budgets of all concerned agencies.

411 **SECTION 31. *Conflict of Interest.*** Pursuant to the fundamental objective of this Act to advance
412 public health, the implementation and enforcement of this Act and the development of related
413 policies shall promote multi-sectoral coordination while safeguarding against potential conflict
414 of interest.

¹⁴ On the Nutrient Composition of Food and its Advertising, Law No. 20,606 (2021) (Chile).

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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415 **SECTION 32. *Separability Clause.*** If any part or provision of this Act is held invalid or
416 unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected shall remain in full force and
417 effect.

418 **SECTION 33. *Repealing Clause.*** All laws, decrees, executive orders, and rules and regulations
419 contrary to or inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or amended
420 accordingly.

421 **SECTION 34. *Effectivity Clause.*** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
422 publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general circulation.