



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

Twentieth Congress  
First Regular Session

House Bill No. 6073



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

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**AN ACT**  
**PREVENTING, CONTROLLING, AND PROHIBITING THE ACCESS**  
**OF MINORS TO ALCOHOL AND PENALIZING INDIVIDUALS AND**  
**ESTABLISHMENTS THAT FURNISH ALCOHOL TO MINORS**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This proposed bill seeks to prevent and prohibit the access of minors to alcoholic beverages and to penalize individuals and establishments that furnish or facilitate such access. It likewise provides for affirmative measures that government agencies, institutions, and other stakeholders may undertake to strengthen the campaign against underage drinking. Furthermore, it establishes an Anti-Underage Drinking Board, which shall serve as the supervisory body tasked with monitoring enforcement, ensuring compliance, and coordinating inter-agency efforts pursuant to this proposed measure.

Underage drinking poses a serious threat to the health and future of Filipino youth. Data from the 2019 Global School-based Student Health Survey (GSHS) reveal that around 58% of students aged 13–17 years have had a drink of alcohol that is more than just a few sips for the first time before they were 14 years of age. In comparison, the 2018-2019 Expanded National Nutrition Survey noted a growing trend of alcohol consumption among adolescents. These statistics point to an urgent public health and social issue, as alcohol is one of the most commonly abused substances by minors in the Philippines.

The effects of underage drinking on a young person's development are grave and far-reaching. Scientific research confirms that the adolescent brain

continues to develop until around the age of twenty-five (25). Exposure to alcohol during this critical period disrupts brain maturation, impairs memory and learning, and undermines decision-making skills. Moreover, minors who consume alcohol are at higher risk of engaging in unsafe sexual activity, reckless behavior, and criminal acts, while also being more susceptible to alcohol dependence and related illnesses later in life. The consequences extend beyond individual health, affecting families, schools, and communities at large.


Furthermore, it is a reality that families and establishments have become enabling agents contributing to minors' early exposure to alcohol. Young people can have access to alcohol in their homes. Oftentimes, parents and older relatives ask young people to buy alcohol from sari-sari stores and the grocery. It is likewise easy for young people to obtain alcohol due to the leniency of establishments in monitoring whether buyers are of legal age.

Despite these alarming realities, the Philippines still lacks a comprehensive national law specifically addressing underage drinking. Current regulatory efforts are fragmented across various issuances of different national government agencies and local government ordinances, with uneven enforcement across regions. Unlike tobacco regulation, there is no clear statutory prohibition against the sale, provision, or consumption of alcoholic beverages by minors at the national level. Likewise, there are no adequate penalties for individuals or establishments who deliberately furnish alcohol to children. This legislative gap leaves minors vulnerable and undermines efforts to protect them from alcohol-related harms.

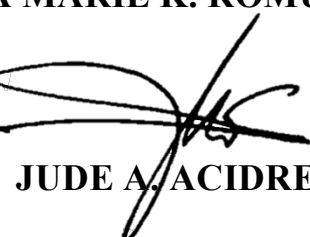
It is therefore imperative for Congress to enact this proposed measure. It establishes clear standards for regulation, strengthens accountability, and complements preventive measures with education initiatives. Above all, this measure affirms the State's constitutional duty to protect the rights and welfare of children and to safeguard their physical, mental, and social development.

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

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

**SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the "*Anti-Underage Drinking Act*".

**SECTION 2. *Declaration of Principles.*** – It is the State's principle to protect the physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being of the youth as enshrined in Article II, Section 13 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution. It is likewise aligned with the State's commitment to the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child (UNCRC) to ensure to the maximum extent possible the survival and development of the child as well as recognize and uphold the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health. Toward this end, the State shall prohibit the access of persons below the age of

eighteen (18) to alcohol and penalize persons of the age of majority that permit minors' access to such substances. Likewise, the State shall provide penalties for establishments that furnish alcoholic substances to minors.

**SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.*** – For the purposes of this Act, the following definitions shall apply:

- a. ***Minors*** refers to any person who is below the age of eighteen (18);
- b. ***Alcohol*** refers to ethyl alcohol, ethanol, or spirits of wine including all dilutions, purifications and mixtures thereof, from whatever source by whatever process produced and shall include whisky, brandy, rum, gin, tequila, and vodka and other similar products or mixtures. It shall also include malt beverages, mixed or fermented liquors, including *tuba*, *basi*, *tapuy*, and *lambanog*;
- c. ***Alcohol by volume (ABV)*** refers to the amount of alcohol per 100 milliliters (ml);
- d. ***Alcoholic beverages*** refer to beverages with an alcoholic content exceeding 1.2% alcohol by volume; and
- e. ***Establishment*** refers to any place, premises, structure, vehicle, or area, whether fixed, mobile, permanent, or temporary, that is licensed, authorized, or otherwise engaged in the sale, service, distribution, dispensing, or consumption of alcoholic beverages.

The scope of such definition includes, but are not limited to the following:

- i. Bars, pubs, nightclubs, karaoke lounges, and similar drinking places;
- ii. Restaurants, cafés, hotels, resorts, casinos, and catering services that serve or supply alcohol;
- iii. Convenience stores, groceries, supermarkets, retail shops, and *sari-sari* stores that sell alcoholic beverages;

- iv. Event venues, concert grounds, sports arenas, stadiums, function halls, and exhibition centers where alcohol is provided or made available;
- v. Mobile or temporary vendors such as food trucks, concession stands, stalls, and kiosks;
- vi. Transportation facilities and conveyances where alcohol is sold or served (e.g., airplanes, ships, trains, buses, terminals, ports, and airports); and
- vii. Any other commercial or public premises where alcoholic drinks are offered for sale, service, or consumption, whether for profit or as part of hospitality.

**SECTION 4. *Prohibited Acts.*** – The following acts are prohibited:

- a. The purchase, attempt to purchase, or acquisition of any alcohol and/or alcoholic beverage by a person under eighteen (18) years of age from any vendor, establishment, or other source;
- b. The purchase, attempt to purchase, or procurement of alcohol and/or alcoholic beverages on behalf of, or with the intent of furnishing to, a person under eighteen (18) years of age;
- c. The act of misrepresenting one's age, including the use or presentation of false, fraudulent, or altered identification, for the purpose of purchasing, obtaining, or consuming alcohol and/or alcoholic beverages;
- d. The allowing, permitting, or tolerating of the possession or consumption of alcohol and/or alcoholic beverages by a person under eighteen (18) years of age within the premises of any establishment, regardless of who purchased or provided the said beverages or where such beverages were obtained;

- e. The sale, service, giving, or furnishing of alcohol and/or alcoholic beverages to a person under eighteen (18) years of age by any establishment duly licensed to sell alcohol and/or alcoholic beverages, including any officer, employee, or agent thereof; and
- f. The act of any parent or legal guardian in knowingly permitting, authorizing, or otherwise consenting to the consumption or possession of alcohol and/or alcoholic beverages by a person under eighteen (18) years of age.

**SECTION 5. *Penalties.*** – Any violation of the provisions of this Act shall subject the offender to the following penalties:

- a. Any minor who has violated any of the provisions of this act shall be required to render community service. Community service may consist of such acts as being required to appear before school groups to explain the dangers of alcohol abuse or organizing seminars for their peers within their local communities on the Anti-Underage Drinking Act. The objective is to require the offenders to provide services that benefit society in a more constructive way and introduce the idea of ethical action into the value system of the perpetrator.

Such minor shall then be committed, through the facilitation of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), to the care of his father, mother, or nearest relative, or, where such is not feasible or in the best interest of the child, to a responsible family friend or duly accredited guardian. Where warranted, the minor may instead be referred to a proper rehabilitation or diversion facility in accordance with applicable child protection and juvenile justice laws.

b. Any establishment found to have violated any provision of this Act shall, upon due notice and hearing, be subject to the following administrative penalties:

- i. First Offense. – A fine of not less than Fifty Thousand Pesos (₱50,000.00) but not more than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (₱100,000.00), and suspension of its license, permit, or authorization to sell, serve, or distribute alcoholic beverages for a period of one (1) month.
- ii. Second Offense. – A fine of not less than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (₱100,000.00) but not more than Two Hundred Thousand Pesos (₱200,000.00), and suspension of its license, permit, or authorization for a period of three (3) months.
- iii. Third Offense. – A fine of not less than Two Hundred Thousand Pesos (₱200,000.00) but not more than Three Hundred Thousand Pesos (₱300,000.00), and suspension of its license, permit, or authorization for a period of six (6) months.
- iv. Subsequent Offenses. – In addition to the penalties herein provided, the local government unit, or the appropriate regulatory agency may, after due process, impose revocation of the establishment's license, permit, or authorization to sell, serve, or distribute alcoholic beverages or the establishment's license, permit, or authorization to operate.

c. Any person who knowingly allows, permits, tolerates, or provides consent

for the possession or consumption of alcohol and/or alcoholic beverages by a person under eighteen (18) years of age shall be penalized with *arresto mayor* or imprisonment of one (1) month and one (1) day to six (6) months.

If such an act results in serious harm to the health, safety, or overall well-being of the minor, or if the violation is repeated, habitual, or committed with evident bad faith, higher imprisonment terms may apply without prejudice to the imposition of higher penalties under applicable laws.

**SECTION 6. *Affirmative Actions.*** – The following affirmative actions shall be observed and implemented:

- a. All sellers, distributors, and establishments engaged in the sale of alcoholic beverages shall prominently display signs indicating the prohibition against the sale, service, or provision of alcoholic beverages to persons under eighteen (18) years of age. Such signs shall not be smaller than thirty-eight centimeters (38 cm) by twenty centimeters (20 cm) and must be placed in conspicuous locations within the premises;
- b. Establishments operating on a self-service basis shall ensure that alcoholic beverages are physically separated from, and clearly identified as distinct from, non-alcoholic beverages;
- c. Entities engaged in the sale or distribution of alcoholic beverages through remote channels, including e-commerce platforms and delivery services, shall implement adequate and conspicuous warnings indicating the prohibition against the sale or provision of alcoholic beverages to minors;
- d. The State, through the appropriate public agencies, shall conduct sustained

information and education campaigns on the health risks associated with alcohol consumption, directed at the general public and specific target groups, including minors. The Department of Education (DepEd) shall ensure that all educational institutions integrate age-appropriate instruction on the risks of alcohol use into their curricula.

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- e. The Department of Health (DOH) shall designate hospitals, clinics, and other appropriate facilities to provide treatment, rehabilitation, and counseling services for alcohol dependency. The Department shall likewise develop, provide, and publish information, education, and communication materials for widespread public dissemination;
- f. Local Government Units (LGUs) shall develop awareness-raising campaigns for families discussing the Anti-Underage Drinking Act of 2025. LGUs shall also acquire and disseminate the information, education, and communication materials developed by the DOH. Such materials shall be available in local government offices and in local schools;
- g. The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) shall ensure that all packaged alcoholic beverages comply with mandatory labeling requirements, including the prominent display of alcohol content. In cases where alcoholic beverages are sold separately from their original packaging or mixed with other drinks, the alcohol content shall be clearly and visibly disclosed whenever such content exceeds 1.2% alcohol by volume (ABV);

- h. The DTI shall mandate that all advertisements, promotions, or marketing materials for alcoholic beverages include, in both Filipino and English, at least one of the following health and safety warnings, displayed clearly and legibly:
- i. “Excessive alcohol drinking is dangerous to your health”;
  - ii. “Consumption of alcoholic drinks in excess harms your health”;
  - iii. “Excessive drinking of alcoholic beverages is harmful to health”;
  - iv. “The sale or availability of alcoholic beverages to persons under eighteen (18) years of age is prohibited”; or
  - v. “The sale or supply of alcoholic beverages to anyone under the age of eighteen (18) is prohibited.”

**SECTION 7. *Establishment of the Anti-Underage Drinking Board***– A body to be known as the Anti-Underage Drinking Board is hereby created, which shall serve as the primary supervisory and regulatory authority tasked with ensuring compliance with the provisions of this Act.

It shall be composed of six (8) members from the Food and Drug Association (FDA), DTI, DSWD, DOH, DepEd, Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), National Youth Commission (NYC), and the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) with the following qualifications:

- a. Each member must be a duly designated representative of the head of their respective agency, preferably holding a position of at least Director level (or its equivalent) to ensure policymaking authority and decision-making capacity.

- b. Members must have a deep and thorough understanding and commitment to advancing the protection of children and minors from alcohol-related harms, and a willingness to engage in inter-agency coordination, research, and community outreach.
- c. Members shall serve for a term of six (6) years, subject to reappointment by their respective agency heads, unless earlier terminated, recalled, or replaced by the sending agency.

The Anti-Underage Drinking Board shall organize itself within thirty (30) days from the effectivity of this Act.

**SECTION 8. *Powers and Functions of the Anti-Underage Drinking Board.*** –

The Board shall have the following powers and duties:

- a. To monitor the enforcement and compliance with this Act;
- b. To recommend the suspension or revocation of permits for erring establishments. Such recommendations will be submitted to the mayor's office, at the licensing office of the local government unit concerned;
- c. To refer cases to the DSWD so that adequate assistance and care may be given to the minor and the minor's parents and/or legal guardians; and
- d. To make an annual impact evaluation report to Congress on the enforcement of the law, specifically to the House Committee on the Welfare of the Child and the Senate Committee on Women, Children, Family Relations and Gender Equality—the specific Congressional Houses that will provide oversight on all matters concerning this Act.

**SECTION 9. *Appropriations.*** – The amount necessary for the initial implementation of this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the Department of Health. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for its

continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act (GAA).

**SECTION 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – Within sixty (60) days from the formation of the Anti-Underage Drinking Body, the body shall issue the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

**SECTION 11. *Separability Clause.*** – If, for any reason, any part or provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, other parts of provisions thereof not affected shall thereby continue to be in full force and effect.

**SECTION 12. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws, decrees, executive orders, proclamations, rules and regulations, and other issuances or parts thereof contrary to or inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

**SECTION 13. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*