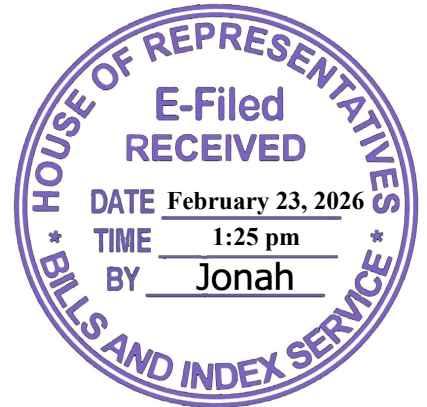


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 7923



Introduced by:

HON. CHRISTOPHERSON “COCO” M. YAP

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Underage drinking puts children and communities at risk. Alcohol use at a young age is linked to health problems, poor school performance, violence, accidents, and a higher chance of addiction later in life. These harms do not affect the child alone, they strain families, schools, hospitals, and law enforcement, and lead to injuries and tragedies that could have been prevented.

Although there are existing laws and local rules, many minors can still buy or receive alcohol from stores, bars, parties, or even through online delivery. This bill responds to that gap by creating a clear national policy that focuses responsibility where it belongs: on adults and businesses that sell, serve, or provide alcohol to minors. At the same time, it follows child-protection laws by making sure minors are not treated as criminals, but are guided toward counseling, education, and family or community support.

The Anti-Underage Drinking Act protects children by stopping easy access to alcohol and holding violators accountable, while offering help, not punishment, to minors involved. By combining stronger enforcement, age checks, online safeguards, and prevention education, the bill promotes safer communities and healthier youth. It sends a clear message: protecting children comes first, and preventing underage drinking is a shared responsibility of families, businesses, and government.

In view of the foregoing, **ug sa ngalan sa SERBISYONG TINUORAY**, the undersigned respectfully requests the immediate passage of this measure.


CHRISTOPHERSON “COCO” M. YAP
Representative, Second District of Southern Leyte

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AN ACT
PREVENTING AND CONTROLLING UNDERAGE ACCESS TO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, PROHIBITING THE SALE, SERVICE, AND FURNISHING THEREOF TO PERSONS BELOW EIGHTEEN (18) YEARS OF AGE, PROVIDING INTERVENTION MEASURES FOR MINORS, AND PENALIZING VIOLATIONS BY INDIVIDUALS AND ESTABLISHMENTS

Be it enacted by the Senate and 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 Policy. — It is the policy of the State to protect the physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being of the youth. The State shall prevent and control the access of persons below eighteen (18) years of age to alcoholic beverages, hold accountable the adults and establishments that sell, serve, furnish, or allow access to alcohol by minors, and ensure appropriate intervention, counseling, and support measures for minors and their parents or guardians.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. — For purposes of this Act, the following terms are defined as:

- (a) “**Child or Minor**” refers to any person below eighteen (18) years of age;
- (b) “**Alcohol**” refers to ethyl alcohol or ethanol and all dilutions, mixtures, and preparations thereof, and includes spirits and distilled liquors such as whisky, brandy, rum, gin, tequila, vodka, and similar products; as well as

fermented liquors and traditional alcoholic drinks including, but not limited to, *tuba*, *basi*, *tapuy*, and *lambanog*.

- (c) “**Alcohol by volume (ABV)**” refers to the percentage of pure alcohol contained in a beverage, expressed as alcohol content per one hundred milliliters (100 mL) of the beverage.;
- (d) “**Alcoholic beverages**” refer to beverages with an alcoholic content exceeding one and two-tenths percent (1.2%) ABV;
- (e) “**Establishment**” refers to any place or premises, whether fixed or mobile, permanent or temporary, that is licensed, authorized, or otherwise engaged in the sale, service, distribution, dispensing, or provision of alcoholic beverages, including bars, restaurants, hotels, resorts, convenience stores, groceries, supermarkets, sari-sari stores, event venues, and similar locations.
- (f) “**Furnish**” refers to sell, serve, give, deliver, provide, make available, or otherwise supply alcoholic beverages, whether for a price or for free.

SECTION 4. Prohibited Acts. — The following acts are prohibited:

- (a) Selling, serving, furnishing, delivering, or otherwise providing alcoholic beverages to a child or minor;
- (b) Purchasing, procuring, or ordering alcoholic beverages on behalf of, or for the purpose of furnishing to, a child or minor;
- (c) Allowing, permitting, or tolerating the possession or consumption of alcoholic beverages by a child or minor within the premises of an establishment;
- (d) Requiring, inducing, or coercing a child or minor to buy, procure, deliver, sell, serve, or otherwise handle alcoholic beverages;
- (e) Any parent, legal guardian, or person exercising parental authority who knowingly and deliberately furnishes alcoholic beverages to a child or minor, or knowingly and deliberately allows a child or minor to consume alcoholic beverages, except where the acts constitute neglect, abuse, or exploitation punishable under other laws, in which case such other laws shall apply.

SECTION 5. Age Verification and Compliance Duties of Establishments. —

- (a) **Age Verification.** — Establishments and their owners, managers, employees, or agents shall require valid proof of age prior to selling or serving alcoholic beverages where the buyer or recipient appears to be below twenty-one (21) years of age, or such other reasonable threshold as may be set in the IRR, to ensure compliance.
- (b) **Mandatory Signage.** — All establishments selling or serving alcoholic beverages shall prominently display notices stating that sale, service, or furnishing of alcoholic beverages to persons below eighteen (18) years of age is prohibited. The specifications for size and placement shall be provided in the IRR.
- (c) **Self-Service Controls.** — Establishments operating on a self-service basis shall ensure that alcoholic beverages are physically separated from non-alcoholic beverages and subject to staff-controlled release.
- (d) **Online Sales and Delivery.** — Entities selling or delivering alcoholic beverages through e-commerce platforms or delivery services shall implement age-gating measures, including age declaration at point of sale and age verification upon delivery.

SECTION 6. Intervention Measures for Minors. — A child or minor found in possession of or consuming alcoholic beverages shall not be subjected to criminal prosecution under this Act. Instead:

- (a) The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), in coordination with the Department of Health (DOH) and the local government unit (LGU), shall implement appropriate intervention programs, including counseling of the child or minor and the child's parent or guardian, and referral to community-based services where needed.
- (b) The child or minor may be required to undergo community-based education or service activities designed for prevention and rehabilitation, subject to safeguards under applicable child welfare and juvenile justice policies.

The foregoing is without prejudice to the filing of appropriate cases against liable adults or establishments under this Act or other applicable laws.

SECTION 7. Penalties for Adults and Establishments. —

- (a) Any person who violates Section 4(a) or 4(b) of this Act shall be punished by imprisonment of not less than one (1) month and one (1) day but not more than six (6) months, or a fine of not less than Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) but not more than Two hundred thousand pesos (P200,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the court.
- (b) Any owner, president, manager, or person in charge of an establishment who violates Section 4(c) of this Act, or who permits or tolerates such violation in the establishment, shall be punished by imprisonment of not less than one (1) month and one (1) day but not more than six (6) months, or a fine of not less than One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) but not more than Three hundred thousand pesos (P300,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the court.
- (c) Administrative Sanctions on Establishments. — In addition to criminal liability, the appropriate LGU licensing office or regulatory authority may, after due notice and hearing, impose the following administrative penalties for violations of this Act:
- (1) First offense — fine of not less than Fifty thousand pesos (P50,000.00) but not more than One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00), and suspension of the license/permit to sell or serve alcohol for one (1) month;
 - (2) Second offense — fine of not less than One hundred thousand pesos (P100,000.00) but not more than Two hundred thousand pesos (P200,000.00), and suspension for three (3) months;
 - (3) Third offense — fine of not less than Two hundred thousand pesos (P200,000.00) but not more than Three hundred thousand pesos (P300,000.00), and suspension for six (6) months; and
 - (4) Fourth and succeeding offenses — revocation of the license/permit to sell or serve alcohol and, where warranted, revocation of the establishment's permit to operate.
- (d) If the violation is committed by a business entity, the owner, president, manager, or most senior officer, as applicable, shall be held liable, consistent with existing penalty structures for sales to minors. (See analogous liability pattern in tobacco regulation.)

SECTION 8. Advertising, Labeling, and Consumer Information. —

- (a) Labeling. — The Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), in coordination with the DOH, shall ensure that packaged alcoholic beverages prominently display ABV and such health and safety warnings as may be prescribed in the IRR.
- (b) Warnings in Promotions. — Alcohol advertising and promotions shall carry legible warnings, in Filipino and English, regarding health risks and the prohibition against sale or furnishing to persons below eighteen (18) years of age, as may be prescribed in the IRR.

SECTION 9. Information and Education. —

- (a) The DOH, DepEd, and DILG shall conduct sustained public information campaigns on the risks associated with alcohol use, with specific modules for minors, parents, and establishments.
- (b) DepEd shall integrate age-appropriate instruction on alcohol harm prevention into relevant learning areas, consistent with curriculum standards.

SECTION 10. Inter-Agency Coordination; Enforcement. —

- (a) Primary enforcement at the local level shall be undertaken by LGUs through their licensing offices and local law enforcement units, in coordination with the DILG.
- (b) The DSWD shall lead intervention services for minors under Section 6.
- (c) The DOH shall set clinical referral pathways for counseling, screening, and treatment for alcohol use problems, especially for minors, in coordination with LGUs.

SECTION 11. Appropriations. — The amounts necessary to implement this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the DOH, DSWD, DepEd, DILG, and concerned agencies, and thereafter included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 12. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOH, DSWD, DTI, DepEd, DILG, and concerned agencies shall promulgate the implementing rules and regulations. The IRR shall

include standards on age verification, signage specifications, online sale safeguards, enforcement protocols, and referral mechanisms for minors.

SECTION 13. Separability Clause. — If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 14. Repealing Clause. — All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, and issuances or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,