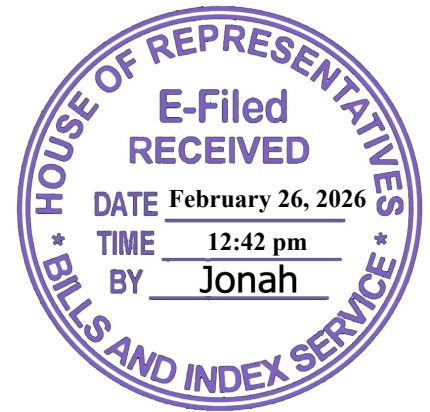


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8104



Introduced by:

HON. CHRISTOPHERSON “COCO” M. YAP

AN ACT
INSTITUTING THE CHILDHOOD OBESITY PREVENTION ACT, ESTABLISHING
HEALTHY SCHOOL FOOD STANDARDS, REGULATING THE SALE AND MARKETING
OF HIGH-SUGAR PRODUCTS IN AND NEAR PUBLIC SCHOOLS, MANDATING DAILY
PHYSICAL ACTIVITY, AND STRENGTHENING PARENT AND COMMUNITY
NUTRITION EDUCATION, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Childhood overweight and obesity are rising in the Philippines and can lead to serious health problems later in life, such as diabetes, heart disease, and mental health issues. These conditions affect not only children and their families, but also place a growing burden on the public health system. Many unhealthy habits begin early, and without action, today’s children face higher medical costs and poorer quality of life as adults.

Schools are one of the best places to prevent this problem. Children spend much of their day in school, eat food sold on or near campus, and follow daily routines that shape lifelong habits. This bill builds on existing nutrition programs by creating healthier school food environments, requiring daily physical activity, and strengthening nutrition education for parents and communities. It limits the sale and promotion of high-sugar food and drinks in public schools, encourages healthier choices around school areas, and ensures that children are physically active every school day.

By combining healthy food, regular exercise, and family involvement, this measure helps children grow strong and healthy while supporting better learning and well-being. It complements current feeding and nutrition programs and responds to the

growing problem of unhealthy weight gain among children. This is a practical, preventive approach that protects children's health and reduces future healthcare costs.

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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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 “*Childhood Obesity Prevention Act*.”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. — It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the right of children to health and proper nutrition. The State shall adopt evidence-informed, school- and community-based interventions to prevent childhood overweight and obesity and their long-term health consequences, through healthier school food environments, regular physical activity, and strengthened nutrition education, implemented through coordinated national and local mechanisms.

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

- (a) “**Child**” refers to learners enrolled in public elementary and secondary schools.

- (b) **“Public Schools”** refers to all state-funded elementary and secondary schools.
- (c) **“Physical activity”** refers to structured or unstructured bodily movement that promotes physical fitness, including physical education, supervised play, sports, and exercise.
- (d) **“High-sugar food and beverage (HSFB)”** refers to food or beverage products with added sugars exceeding thresholds to be determined by the Department of Health (DOH) in coordination with the National Nutrition Council (NNC) and the Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI), using clear, evidence-based standards to be set in the Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).
- (e) **“School food outlets”** refers to school canteens, cafeterias, kiosks, and other food service points operating within public school premises, including those operated through lease, concession, parents-teachers associations, cooperatives, or similar arrangements.
- (f) **“School vicinity”** refers to the area within one hundred (100) meters from the perimeter of a public school.

SECTION 4. Healthy School Food Standards and Restricted Products. —

- (a) Healthy school food standards. — The Department of Education (DepEd), in coordination with the DOH, the NNC, and the FNRI, shall adopt healthy school food standards to guide food service, procurement, and menu planning in public schools.
- (b) Restricted products. — The sale, distribution, and promotional marketing of HSFBs shall be prohibited within public school premises through school food outlets and during school activities, whether on-campus or off-campus, as may be defined in the IRR.
- (c) School vicinity coordination. — DepEd and the concerned local government units (LGUs) shall coordinate to discourage and regulate, consistent with existing ordinances and applicable laws, the sale and promotional marketing of HSFBs within the school vicinity, including through permitting and licensing conditions of local authorities, as may be provided in the IRR.

SECTION 5. School-Based Nutrition and Health Measures. —

- (a) Nutrition information and learner health monitoring. — DepEd, in coordination with DOH, LGUs, and NNC, shall strengthen periodic learner health and nutrition monitoring and referral mechanisms.
- (b) Integration with existing nutrition programs. — Measures under this Act shall, as far as practicable, complement existing school-based nutrition and feeding initiatives, including standardized menu planning and nutrition monitoring systems.

SECTION 6. Mandatory Daily Physical Activity. — All public elementary and secondary schools shall implement a minimum of thirty (30) minutes of daily physical activity for learners, which may include structured physical education, supervised play, organized sports, or equivalent activities suited to age, disability, health status, weather, and local conditions, consistent with DepEd guidelines.

SECTION 7. Parent and Community Nutrition Education. —

- (a) Parent and caregiver sessions. — DepEd, in coordination with DOH and NNC, shall develop and implement a Parent and Community Nutrition Education Program to be conducted at least twice every school year, which shall include:
 - 1. healthy meal planning and food preparation;
 - 2. understanding food labels and added sugars;
 - 3. risks of childhood overweight and obesity
 - 4. practical family physical activity strategies;
 - 5. referral pathways for learners needing clinical assessment.
- (b) Non-punitive approach. — Participation shall be encouraged through accessible scheduling, online/printed modules, and community-based delivery. No monetary penalty shall be imposed on parents or guardians for non-attendance. The IRR may provide incentives and non-punitive conditionalities consistent with child welfare and due process.

SECTION 8. Compliance, Monitoring, and Roles of Agencies. —

- (a) DepEd. — DepEd shall be the lead agency for school-level implementation, including compliance monitoring of school food outlets and the daily physical activity requirement.

- (b) DOH. — DOH shall provide technical assistance and develop standards for HSFB thresholds and nutrition education content in coordination with NNC and FNRI.
- (c) NNC. — Consistent with its mandate as the highest policy-making and coordinating body on nutrition, the NNC shall coordinate, monitor, and evaluate the nutrition components of this Act across agencies and LGUs, and may call upon agencies for assistance as necessary.

SECTION 9. Administrative Sanctions. —

- (a) School food outlets and operators. — Without prejudice to other applicable laws and contracts, DepEd may impose the following graduated administrative sanctions for violations of Section 4(b):
 - 1. First violation: written notice of violation and corrective action order, with mandatory re-orientation;
 - 2. Second violation: suspension of canteen/outlet operations for fifteen (15) to thirty (30) school days and/or administrative fine to be set in the IRR;
 - 3. Third violation: termination of concession/lease agreement or revocation of authority to operate within the school, and blacklisting from future school concessions for a period to be set in the IRR, subject to due process.
- (b) School officials and personnel. — Violations committed by school officials or personnel in the performance of official functions shall be dealt with under applicable civil service and administrative rules, without prejudice to other liabilities under existing laws.

SECTION 10. Reporting and Transparency. — DepEd, in coordination with DOH, NNC, and LGUs, shall submit an annual report to the Office of the President and both Houses of Congress on the implementation of this Act, including compliance indicators, program coverage, and available aggregated data on nutrition status.

SECTION 11. Appropriations. — The amounts necessary to implement this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. Funding shall cover, among others, monitoring activities, capacity building, development of nutrition education materials, and support for physical activity implementation.

SECTION 12. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — Within ninety (90) days from effectivity of this Act, DepEd and DOH, in coordination with the NNC, FNRI, and

concerned stakeholders including LGUs, shall promulgate the IRR. The IRR shall provide clear standards for HSFB thresholds, compliance procedures, administrative due process, and non-punitive parent engagement mechanisms.

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,