

Congress of the Philippines]
TWENTIETH CONGRESS]
First Regular Session]

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
TWENTIETH CONGRESS

House Bill. No. 8219



BY REPRESENTATIVE SUN J. SHIMURA

AN ACT
REGULATING ENTRY INTO BARS, CLUBS, AND SIMILAR
ESTABLISHMENTS, PROHIBITING MINORS FROM ENTERING AND
WORKING THEREIN, IMPOSING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The State has a fundamental duty to protect the public, especially minors, from environments and practices that expose them to grave risk. In recent years, a number of high-profile incidents have highlighted how irresponsible alcohol service, weak gate keeping by bars and clubs, and failures to control clearly intoxicated patrons can lead to serious injury or loss of life—not only inside such establishments but also on the roads and sidewalks beyond their doors.

One such incident was the widely reported case of **Kingston Ralph Ko Cheng**, a young professional and entrepreneur who lost his life while lawfully crossing a pedestrian lane near his home in Cebu City. The driver who struck him had earlier been seen in a club in a visibly impaired state before being assisted to his car. This sequence of events underscored the critical role that establishments serving alcohol play in either preventing or enabling harm: by deciding who is allowed to enter, who is served, and whether clearly intoxicated individuals are permitted to leave unassisted and drive.

This bill responds to those realities by establishing clear, uniform rules for bars, clubs, and similar establishments nationwide. It **categorically prohibits minors from entering or remaining in such venues, and from working therein in any capacity**, recognizing that these are adult-only environments where alcohol consumption and late-night activities are prevalent. It further **imposes a mandatory requirement for all customers to present valid government-issued identification prior to entry**, and obliges establishments to adopt and strictly enforce a "No Valid Government ID, No Entry" policy, thereby closing common avenues by which minors gain access.

In addition, the measure **promotes responsible alcohol service and post-service conduct** by prohibiting the continued service of alcoholic beverages to clearly intoxicated customers and requiring establishments to take reasonable steps to ensure that such persons do not drive, including facilitating safe transport or coordinating with authorities when necessary. To give these obligations real force, the bill provides for **escalating penalties**—substantial fines for initial violations and eventual business closure for repeated offenses—without prejudice to other civil, criminal, or administrative liability under existing laws.

By clearly defining duties at the level of establishments that profit from the sale of alcohol and by attaching meaningful sanctions for non-compliance, this Act seeks to prevent avoidable harm, protect minors from hazardous environments, and reduce alcohol-related incidents on our roads and in our communities. Loosely informed by cases such as that of Kingston Ralph Ko Cheng, it aims to ensure that lessons drawn from tragedy are translated into concrete, enforceable safeguards.

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



REP. SUN J. SHIMURA

Congress of the Philippines
TWENTIETH CONGRESS
FIRST REGULAR SESSION

]
]
]

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill. No. 8219

BY REPRESENTATIVE SUN J. SHIMURA

**AN ACT
REGULATING ENTRY INTO BARS, CLUBS, AND SIMILAR
ESTABLISHMENTS, PROHIBITING MINORS FROM ENTERING AND
WORKING THEREIN, IMPOSING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS, AND FOR
OTHER PURPOSES**

SECTION 1. Short Title. This Act shall be known as the "Cheng Law."

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. It is hereby declared the policy of the State to:

1. Protect minors from environments and activities that may be harmful to their physical, mental, and moral development;
2. Promote responsible business practices among operators of bars, clubs, and similar establishments; and
3. Ensure the safety of all patrons, including the prevention of alcohol-related harm and accidents.

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

1. Minor – Any person below eighteen (18) years of age, or such age as may be defined by existing laws on majority and minority.
2. Establishments – Bars, nightclubs, lounges, discos, karaoke bars, and other similar places where alcoholic beverages are served and consumed on the premises.
3. Valid Government-Issued Identification (ID) – Identification cards issued by a government agency bearing the photograph, full name, and date of birth of the holder, including but not limited to: Philippine Passport, Driver's License, Unified Multi-Purpose ID (UMID), PhilID, SSS ID, GSIS ID, PRC ID, Postal ID, and any other government-issued ID recognized by law.
4. Clearly Drunk or Intoxicated – A state wherein a person, by reason of alcohol consumption, shows visible signs of impairment such as unsteady gait, slurred speech, impaired motor control, or other observable manifestations of intoxication.

SEC. 4. Prohibition Against Entry of Minors.

1. No minor shall be allowed to enter or remain inside any Establishment as defined under this Act.
2. Operators, owners, managers, and employees of Establishments shall refuse entry to any person reasonably believed to be a minor, unless such person presents a valid government-issued ID proving that they are of legal age.

SEC. 5. Mandatory Presentation of Valid Government ID.

1. All customers seeking entry into Establishments shall be required to present a valid government-issued ID for age verification.
2. Establishments shall adopt and prominently display a "NO VALID GOVERNMENT ID, NO ENTRY" policy at all entrances.
3. Failure to require and verify the presentation of a valid government-issued ID shall constitute a violation of this Act.

SEC. 6. Prohibition on Employment of Minors.

1. No minor shall be employed, whether directly or indirectly, in any capacity within Establishments, including but not limited to: service crew, entertainers, performers, bartenders, wait staff, or any other role within the premises.
2. It shall be unlawful for any owner, operator, or manager of an Establishment to hire, employ, or retain the services of a minor within such Establishment.

SEC. 7. Responsibility Toward Intoxicated Customers.

1. Establishments shall exercise due diligence and responsibility in dealing with customers who are clearly drunk or intoxicated.
2. Where a customer is clearly drunk or intoxicated, the Establishment shall:
 - a. Refrain from serving further alcoholic beverages to such person;
 - b. Take reasonable steps to ensure that the customer does not drive a motor vehicle while intoxicated. This may include:
 - i. Coordinating with a sober companion to drive the customer home;
 - ii. Assisting the customer in securing a taxi, ride-hailing service, or other safe mode of transportation; or
 - iii. Provide a designated lobby, waiting area, or similar safe and monitored space within or immediately adjacent to the Establishment where clearly intoxicated customers may temporarily stay to sober up while arrangements for safe transportation or accompaniment are being made.
 3. Requesting assistance from local authorities if necessary; and
3. The designated lobby, waiting area, or similar space referred to in paragraph 2(c) shall:
 - a. Be reasonably accessible and safe for customers;
 - b. Be under the oversight of responsible personnel of the Establishment; and
 - c. Not be used for serving additional alcoholic beverages to persons already determined to be clearly intoxicated.

4. Establishments that knowingly allow clearly drunk or intoxicated customers to leave the premises and drive, or that fail to undertake reasonable preventive measures as provided in this Section, may be held liable under this Act and under other applicable laws, rules, and regulations.

SEC. 8. Penalties. Any Establishment, owner, operator, manager, or responsible officer found to have violated any provision of this Act shall be subject to the following penalties:

1. First Offense – A fine of Two Hundred Thousand Pesos (P200,000.00);
2. Second Offense – A fine of Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P500,000.00);
3. Third Offense – Closure of the business establishment, without prejudice to the cancellation of its business permits and licenses, and the filing of other appropriate civil, criminal, or administrative actions under existing laws.

Each day of continued violation, after due notice, may be considered a separate offense at the discretion of the implementing agency.

SEC. 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), in coordination with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) and concerned local government units (LGUs), Philippine National Police (PNP) and Land Transportation Office (LTO) shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 10. Role of Local Government Units. Local government units shall:

1. Integrate the provisions of this Act into local ordinances relating to the regulation of Establishments;
2. Ensure strict monitoring and enforcement within their respective jurisdictions; and
3. Coordinate with law enforcement agencies to conduct regular inspections and compliance checks.

SEC. 11. Separability Clause. If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 12. Repealing Clause. All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof that are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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