

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Constitution Hills, Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8416



Introduced by 2nd District of Iloilo Representative
HON. KATHRYN JOYCE F. GORRICETA, MD

AN ACT
TO CREATE A HEALTHY FOOD ENVIRONMENT BY REQUIRING FRONT-OF-PACKAGE WARNING LABELS FOR FOOD HIGH IN FAT, SODIUM, OR SUGAR AND REGULATING THE MARKETING OF SUCH FOOD TO CHILDREN

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) such as cancer, cardiovascular disease, diabetes, and chronic respiratory diseases remain among the most pressing public health challenges in the Philippines. According to the World Health Organization (WHO), NCDs account for approximately sixty-eight percent (68%) of total deaths in the country, imposing a substantial burden not only on the health system but also on the country's economic productivity and social welfare.¹ Obesity and unhealthy dietary patterns have been identified as key risk factors driving the rise of these diseases.²

Recent national nutrition data demonstrate a worrying trend. In the Philippines, the prevalence of overweight and obesity among children aged five (5) to ten (10) years has increased from 5.7% in 2003 to 12.9% in 2023.³ Among adolescents, the prevalence likewise increased from 4.9% in 2003 to 12.5% in 2023.⁴ With these current levels, the country is not on track to achieve the targets set under the Philippine Plan of Action for Nutrition (PPAN) 2023–2028. Without effective policy interventions, projections suggest that more than thirty percent (30%) of Filipino adolescents may fall into the overweight or obese category by 2030.⁵

A growing body of global and local evidence shows that the increased availability and consumption of prepackaged and highly processed food products—many of which contain excessive amounts of sugar, sodium, and unhealthy fats—have significantly contributed to this rising trend in overweight and obesity. International studies have likewise shown that the growing importation and consumption of processed foods are associated with increasing prevalence of overweight and obesity across countries.⁶

Children are particularly vulnerable to these trends. Studies have shown that marketing strategies for unhealthy food products disproportionately target children, who are highly susceptible to advertising and promotional messages. Research examining children's exposure to television advertising indicates that foods high in sugar, salt, and fat are promoted far more

frequently than healthier alternatives during hours when children are most likely to watch television.⁷ This environment increases children's exposure to marketing that encourages the consumption of unhealthy food products.

Global health authorities have warned that the marketing of unhealthy food and non-alcoholic beverages significantly influences children's dietary preferences, purchasing requests, and consumption habits.⁸ In the Philippines, this challenge is compounded by the lack of an effective and easily understandable food labeling system that would enable consumers to identify products that contain excessive amounts of nutrients of concern.

Although nutrition information panels are required on food packaging, these are typically located on the back of packages and often contain technical information that is difficult for consumers to interpret. Studies have shown that the comprehension of conventional nutrition labels varies widely across socioeconomic groups, with consumers from lower-income households and those with lower levels of education often finding such information difficult to understand.⁹ As a result, many consumers are unable to easily identify food products that may pose risks to their health.

The combined effect of these factors has created what public health experts describe as an "obesogenic environment"—an environment in which unhealthy food options are widely available, heavily marketed, and easier to identify and purchase than healthier alternatives. In such an environment, children and families are placed at greater risk of developing unhealthy dietary patterns that may lead to long-term health consequences.

The Constitution itself recognizes the central importance of health in national development. Article II, Section 15 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution declares that the State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.¹⁰ In fulfilling this constitutional mandate, the State must adopt effective measures that empower consumers to make healthier food choices and protect children from environments that promote unhealthy consumption patterns.

This proposed measure seeks to address these challenges by establishing a comprehensive policy framework to create a healthier food environment in the Philippines. Specifically, the bill proposes two key regulatory interventions:

First, it introduces mandatory front-of-package warning labels (FOPWL) to help consumers easily identify food products that exceed prescribed thresholds for energy, sugar, sodium, or unhealthy fats. These warning labels are designed to provide clear, simple, and easily understandable information on the main face of food packaging, enabling consumers to make informed food choices at the point of purchase.

Second, the bill establishes regulatory measures on the marketing of unhealthy food products to children, including restrictions on child-directed marketing strategies and limitations on advertising in settings and media where children are likely to be exposed. These measures aim to reduce the power and reach of marketing that promotes the consumption of food products with excessive levels of nutrients of concern.

Evidence from other countries that have implemented similar policies demonstrates promising results. Front-of-package warning labels have been shown to significantly reduce purchases of food and beverages containing excessive amounts of unhealthy nutrients, while marketing

restrictions have been associated with measurable reductions in children's exposure to unhealthy food advertising.

By combining improved consumer information with safeguards against harmful marketing practices, this measure seeks to empower Filipino families to make healthier food choices while protecting children from commercial influences that may negatively affect their long-term health.

This legislation supports the country's broader goals of reducing the burden of noncommunicable diseases, improving population health outcomes, and ensuring a healthier future for Filipino children.

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


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References:

¹ World Health Organization (2019). *Prevention and control of noncommunicable diseases in the Philippines: The case for investment*, p. 1. Available at: <https://www.who.int/docs/default-source/wpro---documents/countries/philippines/reports/prevention-and-control-of-noncommunicable-diseases-in-the-philippines---the-case-for-investment.pdf> (last accessed January 23, 2024).

² *Id.* at p. 4.

³ Department of Science and Technology – Food and Nutrition Research Institute (2023). *Trends and Tracking of Nutrition Targets*. Available at: https://enutrition.fnri.dost.gov.ph/uploads/9_2023_NNS_TRENDS%20AND%20TRACKING%20OF%20NUTRITION%20TARGETS.pdf (last accessed July 14, 2025).

⁴ *Id.*

⁵ UNICEF (2022). *Everybody Needs to Act to Curb Obesity*. Available at: <https://www.unicef.org/philippines/press-releases/everybody-needs-act-curb-obesity> (last accessed January 23, 2024).

⁶ 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).

⁷ FoodAct Asia (PH) Policy Brief (2022). *Tackling the Obesity Challenge: Urgent Steps to Regulate TV Food Marketing in the Philippines*.

⁸ UNICEF (2021). *Marketing of Unhealthy Foods and Non-alcoholic Beverages to Children*. Available at: <https://www.unicef.org/media/116691/file/Marketing%20restrictions.pdf> (last accessed January 23, 2024).

⁹ Sinclair, et al. (2013). *Sociodemographic differences in the comprehension of nutritional labels on food products*.

¹⁰ 1987 Philippine Constitution, Article II, Section 15.

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

ARTICLE I
GENERAL PROVISIONS

SECTION 1. Short Title. This Act shall be known as the “*Healthy Food Environment Act*.”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of all Filipinos and to instill health consciousness among them. It is likewise the policy of the State to protect and promote the right of every child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health and to defend their right to proper care and nutrition, which includes the right to healthy environments.

The State therefore recognizes the need to enable all Filipinos to make informed food choices and avoid food and beverages that are harmful to one’s health in line with its policy to protect consumers from trade malpractices and substandard or hazardous food products.

The State also recognizes the urgent need to protect children from obesogenic food environments that promote the sale and marketing of food that are high in fats, sodium, and sugar.

SEC. 3. Objective. This Act aims to:

- a. Guide the population in making informed food purchases and discourage Filipinos—especially children and people living with or at risk of non-communicable diseases—from consuming food containing energy, fat, sodium, and sugar in excess of the prescribed maximum thresholds; and
- b. Minimize the power of, and reduce the exposure of children to, marketing of food and beverages containing energy, fat, sodium, and sugar in excess of the prescribed maximum thresholds.

SEC. 4. Definition of Terms. As used in this Act:

- a. "Breastmilk substitutes" refers to any food being marketed or otherwise represented as a partial or total replacement for breastmilk, whether or not suitable for that purpose;
- b. "Calories" refer to the unit of measurement used to determine the amount of energy that a food provides;
- c. "Child" refers to persons below eighteen (18) years of age, or any person eighteen (18) years of age or over but who are unable to fully take care of themselves or protect themselves because of a physical or mental disability or condition;
- d. "Child-directed marketing" refers to all marketing targeted to or to which children are exposed to, which includes, but is not limited to, marketing that uses: images, sounds or language designed to appeal to children such as cartoon characters, personalities or celebrities that target or address children in their content (licensed or unlicensed), children actors or voices, or references to school or play; toys or book giveaways, competitions or promotional giveaways, buy-one-take one, discounts, and pricing bundle strategies; themes designed to attract children (e.g. fantasy or adventure); games or activities that are likely to be popular with children; or other similar or analogous appeals. Child-directed marketing also includes marketing that is directed to a parent (or another adult) where the end-consumer is a child.
- e. "Child-centered settings" refers to any location that is frequented by families and children because of activities, attractions, or infrastructure targeted or directed to children, including but not limited to schools, educational establishments, learning institutions, playgrounds, amusement parks, or other service centers or places frequented by families and children, and other similar and analogous settings.
- f. "Cross-border marketing" refers to marketing which originates within the territory of the Philippines and enters or could be received in another territory, as well as that which originates outside the territory of the Philippines and is received or accessible within the territory.
- g. "Complementary nutritional information" refers to any information that may state, suggest, or imply that a food or beverage possesses particular nutritional or health properties, especially, but not limited to its energy value, protein, fat, carbohydrates, dietary fiber content, critical nutrients, vitamins, minerals, including assertions of fortification.
- h. "Distributor" refers to any person to whom a prepackaged food product is delivered or sold for purposes of distribution in commerce. Distributors include importers, exporters, traders, or wholesalers.
- i. "Educational establishment" refers to any establishment, including but not limited to schools, learning institutions, play schools, sports camps, youth development facilities, and other places, where a child as defined in this Act engages in activities that contribute to their overall growth and development through any means of instruction.
- j. "Food and beverage industry" means manufacturers, wholesale distributors, and importers of prepackaged food.
- k. "Front-of-package warning label (FOPWL)" refers to the simplified nutrition information system on the main face of the packaging of prepackaged food products that warn consumers when a product contains excessive amounts of nutrients of concern as prescribed in Section 6 of this Act;

l. “Importer” means the consignee or the Philippine agent or representative of a foreign owner or consignee of raw materials, ingredients, and/or finished prepackaged food at the time of such entry of such article in the Philippines.

m. “Health claim” means any representation that states, suggests, or implies that a relationship exists between a food or a constituent of that food and health.

n. “Main face” refers to the part of the packaging that is intended to be displayed, where the sales name and the brand or logo, if any, are recorded in their most relevant forms.

o. “Manufacturer” means a person who makes, mixes, cooks, packs, combines packaging or modifies packaging of prepackaged food required to have a warning label under this Act. This shall include any person who attaches one's own brand name to a prepackaged food product manufactured, assembled, or processed for them.

p. “Marketing” means any form of commercial communication of messages, including those distributed by digital means, that are designed to, or have the effect or likely effect of, increasing the recognition, appeal and/or consumption of particular products and services, whether directly or indirectly. It includes but is not limited to acts of advertising and promotions of a product or service including the advertising of corporate social responsibility initiatives, and sponsorships.

q. “Message” means the presentation of letters, images, artificial marks, photographs, motion pictures, light, sound, or any other action that enables the general public to comprehend the conveyed meaning.

r. “Micro, small, and medium enterprise (MSME)” refers to food business operators as defined within the classification of industries by the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI).

s. “Nutrient” refer to any chemical substance normally consumed as a component of a food that:
(1) provides energy; and/or
(2) is necessary for, or contributes to the growth, development, and maintenance of health and life; and/or
(3) the absence of which will cause characteristic chemical or physiological changes to occur;

t. “Nutrient Profile Model” refers to a tool used to classify or rank foods according to their nutritional composition for reasons related to the prevention of disease and the promotion of health;

u. “Nutrients of concern” refer to those nutrients that when ingested above the maximum values are considered as risk factors associated with non-communicable diseases; these include but are not limited to sugars, sodium, saturated fats, total fats, and calories.

v. “Nutrition claim” means any representation which states, suggests or implies that a food has particular nutritional properties including but not limited to the energy value and to the content of protein, fat and carbohydrates, as well as the content of vitamins and minerals. Provided, that (1) the mention of substances in the list of ingredients; (2) the mention of nutrients as a mandatory part of nutrition labelling; (3) quantitative or qualitative declaration of certain nutrients or ingredients on the label if required by national legislation do not constitute nutrition claims.

w. “Point-of-sale” refers to a kiosk, counter, cashier, or any specific, definite, and limited area, where an individual can purchase or otherwise obtain prepackaged food.

x. “Prepackaged food product” refers to any substance, which is intended for human consumption and includes non-alcoholic drinks for human beings, and chewing gum, resulting

from the application of physical, chemical, or biological processes to a “primary food commodity”, that is prepared in advance and placed in a container, labelled and ready for sale or distribution, or for catering purposes.

y. “Public event” means any activity that is open for public access and participation, regardless of the identity of the organizer or coordinator of such activity. It includes but is not limited to events such as sporting, music, and recreation events that target and attract children.

z. “Public space” means a place accessible to the general public or a place for collective use, regardless of ownership or right to access.

aa. “Public transport” means any vehicle used for carriage of members of the public, usually for reward or commercial gain, including taxis and vehicles for hire.

bb. “Saturated fat” refers to fatty acids that contain the maximum number of hydrogens possible, and no carbon-carbon double bonds. Saturated fats are classified as short chain (1-5 carbons), medium chain (6-12 carbons), and long chain (13-21 carbons) and very long chain (contains 22 and more carbons) according to the carbon chain length;

cc. “Sodium” refers to a chemical element that exists naturally in food, associated with other molecular residues or atoms as an ionic bond, forming chemical salts. It is of great importance since it helps to maintain the water and base acid balance of any organism, constituting its most common compound, sodium chloride or what is usually called table salt. Likewise, there are other sodium salts that are of industrial origin, such as monosodium glutamate (flavor enhancer); benzoate, sodium acetate, sodium bicarbonate (acidity regulators and preservatives); sodium hydroxide, sodium carbonate (acidity regulator); sodium erythorbate (antioxidant), among others. One gram of 'table salt' contains 400mg of sodium (1 gram of sodium is equivalent to 2.5 grams of table salt);

dd. “Sponsorship” means any form of contribution to any event, activity or individual with the aim, effect or likely effect of promoting a food or beverage product either directly or indirectly.

ee. “Sugar” refers to all monosaccharides and disaccharides other than polyols. Most commonly regulated is “free sugar” which refers to monosaccharides and disaccharides added to food and beverages by the manufacturer, cook, and/or consumer plus sugars that are naturally present in honey, syrups and juices;

ff. “Sweetener” refers to a substance, whether caloric or non-caloric, intentionally added to a food product to impart sweetness. Caloric sweetener refers to a substance that is sweet and includes sucrose, fructose, and glucose that produce a certain sweetness. Non-caloric sweetener refers to a substance that is artificially or chemically processed that produces a certain sweetness. These are substances which can be directly added to beverages such as aspartame, sucralose, saccharin, acesulfame potassium, neotame, cyclamates and other non-nutritive sweeteners approved by the Codex Alimentarius and adopted by the FDA;

gg. “Total fat” refers to the total amount of fat in a food product. This includes the saturated fat, trans-fat, monounsaturated, and polyunsaturated fat in a food product.

SEC. 5. General Rule on Statutory Construction. This Act shall be construed strictly in favor of improving the health of Filipinos, especially children, decreasing the rate of obesity and overweight, and reducing the morbidity and mortality due to noncommunicable diseases.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed as limiting the powers of local government units under Republic Act No. 7160 or the Local Government Code.

ARTICLE II
FRONT-OF-PACKAGE WARNING LABELS

SEC. 6. Mandatory Front-of-Package Warning Labels (FOPWL). No person shall sell, manufacture, import, export, or distribute prepackaged food without a front-of-package warning label when the product contains nutrients of concern exceeding prescribed maximum values.

SEC. 7. Form, Size, Placement, and Characteristics of the Warning Label. When prepackaged food contains nutrients exceeding prescribed values, the packaging shall display warning labels as prescribed by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) consistent with the following guidelines:

- a. One warning label shall appear for each nutrient exceeding prescribed limits, including:
 - i. HIGH IN SUGAR
 - ii. HIGH IN SODIUM
 - iii. HIGH IN SATURATED FAT
 - iv. HIGH IN TOTAL FAT
- b. If calories exceed thresholds, the package shall include:
 - i. HIGH IN CALORIES
- c. If sweeteners are present:
 - i. CONTAINS SWEETENERS, NOT RECOMMENDED FOR CHILDREN
- d. Warning labels shall appear as black octagons with white edges and capital letters.
- e. Warning labels for sweeteners shall appear as black rectangles with white edges.
- f. Each warning label shall occupy not less than five percent (5%) of the total area of the main face of packaging.
- g. Warning labels shall be visible and not concealed or obstructed by packaging design.
- h. Warning labels shall be placed at the top right of the product's main face.
- i. Multiple warning labels shall appear adjacent to each other.
- j. Multi-pack packages must display labels on both outer and individual packages.

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

SEC. 8. Maximum values of nutrients of concern for Prepackaged Food. The Department of Health (DOH) shall develop or adopt a nutrient profile model (NPM) to determine the maximum values of energy, sugar, sodium, saturated fat, total fat, and other nutrients for prepackaged food. Pending the development of a local NPM, a conflict-free, evidence-based NPM recommended by the World Health Organization shall be used as the basis for such maximum values.

SEC. 9. Prohibition against misleading claims, other promotional features in the packaging. It is absolutely prohibited for all prepackaged food required to have a warning label under Section 6 of this Act to contain:

- a. Complementary nutritional information;
- b. Logotypes or phrases stating the sponsorship or endorsements of scientific societies or civil associations or other relevant actors;
- c. Any other health and nutrition claim; and
- d. Any advertisement or promotional feature that qualifies as child-directed marketing as defined in this Act.

SEC. 10. Misbranding. A violation under Sections 6, 7, or 9 of this Act shall render the product misbranded under Republic Act No. 9711. Pursuant to Section 11 of Republic Act No. 3720 as amended by Republic Act No. 9711, the following acts are prohibited:

- a. The manufacture, importation, exportation, sale, offering for sale, distribution, transfer, non-consumer use, promotion, advertising, or sponsorship of any food that is adulterated, unregistered or misbranded;
- b. The adulteration or misbranding of any food.

SEC. 11. Prohibition against concealment or obstruction of warning labels. Prepackaged food products required to have a warning label under Section 6 shall be displayed with the warning labels in full view for the consumers in retail stores. The concealment or obstruction of the warning labels in retail stores, whether partial or whole, is prohibited.

Any concealment or obstruction of view of warning labels herein shall be considered as a deceptive act or practice under Republic Act No. 7394 or the Consumer Act of the Philippines and is considered a prohibited act therein.

SEC. 12. Exemptions. Prepackaged food for special therapeutic dietary uses that are formulated for a particular physiological condition or as partial replacement for meals, and culinary ingredients which typically consist of only one nutrient in high purity (such as cooking oils, table sugars, common table salt, etc.) shall follow their respective labeling requirements and shall be exempted from the obligation to incorporate FOPWL.

Breastmilk substitutes shall likewise be exempted from this Act and shall follow the guidelines promulgated by Executive Order No. 51, series of 1986 (the Philippine Milk Code), its implementing rules and regulations and other pertinent regulations.

ARTICLE III

RESTRICTIONS ON THE MARKETING OF PREPACKAGED FOOD PRODUCTS REQUIRED TO HAVE A WARNING LABEL

SEC. 13. Minimizing the power of child-directed marketing.

a. It is prohibited to employ child-directed marketing or to initiate, produce, publish, broadcast, or disseminate any marketing that employs child-directed marketing techniques for all prepackaged food required to have a warning label under Section 6 of this Act. This prohibition includes, but is not limited to, such child-directed marketing in the following settings:

- i. Television, broadcast radio and print media;
- ii. Outdoor environments (such as billboards);
- iii. Retail environments (such as vending machines, points-of-sale, groceries, supermarkets, retail stores, and malls);

- iv. Public spaces (such as public transportation terminals, public utility vehicles, parks, schools, evacuation centers);
- v. Digital media and e-commerce platforms, such as, but not limited to, social media platforms and mobile application platforms; and
- vi. Public events (such as shows and activities, or in entertainment venues).

b. All persons who sell, manufacture, distribute, or import prepackaged food that are required to have a warning label herein are likewise prohibited from engaging in sponsorship as defined in this Act. This prohibition shall also apply to any person who receives or facilitates such sponsorship, including but not limited to, the media or event organizer, venue owner, team owner, sports person, celebrity, artist, or other performer.

c. The DOH, in coordination with the Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC), is hereby authorized to identify and regularly publish a schedule of forms, methods, and means of marketing that are considered child-directed marketing under this Act, and other similar and analogous appeals to child-directed marketing techniques for the guidance of relevant stakeholders. Omission from the list does not exempt any marketing activity from the scope of prohibited conduct, provided that it meets the criteria set out in this Act.

SEC. 14. Reducing exposure of children to the marketing of prepackaged food products required to have a warning label. It is absolutely prohibited to market prepackaged food products required to have a warning label under Section 6 of this Act in the following settings:

- a. In and within 250 meters from any point of the perimeter of child-centered settings;
- b. Between 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. for all programs, commercials, and films shown in television with a rating other than SPG, in the case of television shows, or R-18, in the case of movies, by the Movie and Television Review and Classification Board (MTRCB); and
- c. Between 6:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. for all programs and commercials broadcast on radio.

SEC. 15. When communication is not considered marketing. The following exhaustive list of communications and actions shall not be considered marketing of prepackaged food products required to have a warning label under Section 6 of this Act even if likely to have an incidental promotional effect, provided they are reported to the DOH as required under Section 17 of this Act:

- a. Display of brand name, product name, and/or manufacturer's name on prepackaged food product packaging, without any marketing features on the package;
- b. Dissemination or reporting of information on company practices that do not involve contributions to other parties, where required for necessary business administration or for mandated corporate reporting;
- c. Legitimate journalistic, artistic, or academic expression of food and beverage content and genuine social or political commentary, authored or created by named individuals engaged in journalism, art, or the academe, for which no payment or any other consideration is made by the food and beverage industry;
- d. Product information provided to entities within the food and beverage industry trade, with access only to persons/entities who need the information; and
- e. Manufacturers and distributors' newsletters destined for distribution within the food and beverage industry and related business partners.

SEC. 16. Protecting children from data processing. The processing of personal data of children for the development of marketing of prepackaged food products required to have a warning label under Section 6 of this Act shall be prohibited.

Large digital platforms and search engines shall maintain and publicly disclose comprehensive marketing repositories, allowing scientific research, civil society and competent authorities to monitor all marketing sold on their service. These repositories shall include information such as the identity of the marketing buyer, the period in which the marketing material was displayed, the demographics of the target audience and information on how the marketing was viewed.

SEC. 17. Promoting transparency in food and beverage marketing. In addition to any guidelines that the FDA may develop, all prepackaged food products required to have a warning label under Section 6 of this Act shall adhere to the following marketing guidelines:

- a. Prepackaged products featured in marketing materials must display the warning labels consistently with their appearance on the actual products, as specified under Section 7 of this Act;
- b. In all kinds of visual media, warning labels must be clearly visible, at all times, on the bottom right corner. The size of each warning label shall never be less than five percent (5%) of the total display area;
- c. For radio and auditory media, warnings should be communicated in a clear, prominent, and easily understandable manner.

Within two (2) years from the date of effectivity of this Act, large enterprises (as defined by the DTI) in the food and beverage industry shall submit an annual report to the Lead Agency, copy furnishing the FDA-Center for Food Regulation Research (FDA-CFRR), detailing all expenditures relating to the marketing of prepackaged food products required to have a warning label under Section 6 of this Act. The Lead Agency shall prescribe the manner and form of such report and shall provide sanctions for non-compliance.

ARTICLE IV IMPLEMENTATION

SEC. 18. Lead Agency. The DOH shall oversee and ensure the implementation of the provisions of this Act in coordination with the agencies that shall comprise the inter-agency task force in Section 19 of this Act, and shall have the power to issue other policies, rules, regulations, and standards for such implementation.

In line with this mandate, the DOH shall convene and lead the inter-agency task force in Section 19 for the implementation of this Act.

SEC. 19. National Task Force for a Healthy Food Environment. To ensure inter-agency coherence and consistency in the implementation of Articles II and III of this Act, a National Task Force (NTF) for a Healthy Food Environment is hereby created.

- a. The NTF shall be composed of the following persons and/or heads of the following offices:

DOH — Chairperson
FDA — Vice Chairperson
National Nutrition Council (NNC) — Vice Chairperson
Council for the Welfare of Children (CWC) — Member
Department of Education (DepEd) — Member
Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) — Member

Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG) — Member
Land Transportation Franchising and Regulatory Board (LTFRB) — Member
Early Childhood Care and Development (ECCD) Council — Member
National Council for Children's Television (NCCT) — Member

The Department Secretaries or Chairpersons may designate permanent and alternate authorized representatives to the NTF.

b. The NTF shall:

- i. Coordinate and align programs, strategies, and activities to enforce the provisions of this Act, as applicable;
- ii. Monitor and evaluate implementation of this Act;
- iii. Develop and regularly implement a nationwide social and behavior change communication (SBCC) campaign to promote the consumption of healthy food and beverages, increase health and nutrition literacy among Filipinos, emphasize the risks of overconsuming foods that are high in fats, sodium, and sugar, and discourage the consumption of prepackaged food required to have a warning label; and
- iv. Develop and implement programs and activities to build the capacity of the NTF members to fulfil their mandates and functions under this Act.

c. The NTF may, as necessary, coordinate and collaborate with other government agencies, civil society and non-government organizations, and individual experts that have relevant mandates and/or expertise that may be useful to accomplish its functions under this Act, provided that Sections 25 and 26 of this Act are strictly complied with.

SEC. 20. Powers and Functions of the Members of the National Task Force for a Healthy Food Environment.

a. The DOH shall:

- i. Regularly convene the NTF as chairperson and coordinate with its members to develop and implement strategies and activities to enforce the provisions of this Act;
- ii. Designate a member of the NTF to serve as the Secretariat;
- iii. Regularly publish a schedule of forms, methods, and means of marketing that are considered child-directed marketing as defined under this Act, and other similar and analogous appeals to child-directed marketing techniques;
- iv. Coordinate with the FDA, ECCD Council, DTI, DepEd and LGUs, as applicable, to enforce the marketing prohibitions in and within 250 meters from any point of the perimeter of child-centered settings under Section 14(a) of this Act;
- v. Identify other child-centered settings as defined under this Act, in coordination with the DepEd and ECCD Council;
- vi. Develop guidelines to enforce the prohibitions under Section 14(a) of this Act, in coordination with the FDA and CWC;
- vii. Develop and implement programs, strategies, and activities to promote healthy diets, in coordination with the DILG for local implementation under Section 21 of this Act and with the DepEd for implementation within schools;

viii. Implement SBCC strategies and activities to promote the consumption of healthy food and beverages among Filipinos pursuant to Section 19(b)(iii) of this Act;

ix. Oversee the development of programs and activities to build the capacity of the NTF members to fulfil their mandates and functions under this Act in accordance with Section 19, in coordination with the NTF members and other relevant stakeholders.

b. The FDA, through the Center for Food Regulation and Research shall:

i. Assist the DOH in convening the NTF, as vice chairperson;

ii. Enforce the prohibitions relating to warning labels under Sections 6, 7, 9, and 10 of this Act;

iii. Develop guidelines to prescribe procedures and requirements for record-keeping of food and beverage manufacturers to comply with this Act;

iv. Enforce compliance with Sections 6, 7, 9, 13 and 17 of this Act;

v. Coordinate with the DOH to develop guidelines to enforce the prohibitions under Section 14(a) of this Act;

vi. Implement SBCC strategies and activities to promote the consumption of healthy food and beverages among Filipinos pursuant to Section 19(b)(iii) of this Act.

c. The CWC shall:

i. Assist the DOH in convening the NTF, as vice chairperson;

ii. Coordinate with the DOH to develop guidelines to enforce the prohibitions under Section 14(a) of this Act;

iii. Implement SBCC strategies and activities to promote the consumption of healthy food and beverages among Filipinos pursuant to Section 19(b)(iii) of this Act, especially for children.

d. The NNC shall:

i. Recommend improvements to the policy to strengthen implementation;

ii. Assist all members of the NTF in creating SBCC strategies and activities to promote the consumption of healthy food and beverages among Filipinos pursuant to Section 19(b)(iii) of this Act;

iii. Provide technical assistance in the development of SBCC strategies and activities to promote the consumption of healthy food and beverages among Filipinos pursuant to Section 19(b)(iii) of this Act, especially for children.

e. The DepEd shall:

i. Coordinate with schools and local government units to enforce the marketing prohibitions in and within 250 meters from any point of the perimeter of child-centered settings under Section 14(a) of this Act;

ii. Implement SBCC strategies and activities to promote the consumption of healthy food and beverages among Filipinos pursuant to Section 19(b)(iii) of this Act, within schools, such as

but not limited to developing curriculum materials on food marketing to children, as part of the media and information literacy subject, and FOPWL.

f. The DTI shall:

- i. Enforce compliance with Section 11 of this Act;
- ii. Enforce prohibitions against child-directed marketing through sponsorship under Section 13(b) of this Act, provided that when the violation occurs in and within 250 meters from any point of the perimeter of child-centered settings, Section 14 shall apply and be enforced by the FDA, ECCD, and LGUs, as applicable;
- iii. Enforce the marketing prohibitions for retail environments under Section 13(a)(iii) of this Act;
- iv. Enforce the marketing prohibitions for digital and e-commerce platforms under Section 13(a)(v) of this Act;
- v. Enforce the marketing prohibitions for broadcast radio under Section 14(c) of this Act;
- vi. Support LGUs to enact and implement ordinances or executive orders under Section 21 of this Act.

g. The DILG shall:

- i. Support LGUs to enact and implement ordinances or executive orders under Section 21 of this Act.

h. The LTFRB shall:

- i. Enforce prohibitions against child-directed marketing under Section 13(a)(iv) of this Act in public utility vehicles.

i. The ECCD Council shall:

- i. Enforce the marketing prohibitions in and within 250 meters from any point of the perimeter of child-centered settings under Section 14(a) of this Act, in coordination with the DOH;
- ii. Coordinate with the DOH for the identification of other child-centered settings as defined under this Act.

j. The NCCT shall:

- i. Set standards for child-friendly television programming, and can work with broadcasters and relevant agencies to promote child-sensitive media and encourage compliance with the marketing prohibitions for broadcast television under Section 14(b) of this Act.

SECTION 21. Local Implementation.

a. LGUs, through appropriate issuances such as ordinances or executive orders, shall establish mechanisms to enforce the provisions under Sections 6, 7, 9, 13, and 14(a) of this Act, as applicable, within their jurisdictions and shall impose penalties for violations thereof.

For this purpose, local health boards (LHBs) and local councils for the protection of children (LCPCs) shall regularly monitor the compliance of LGUs with the provisions of this Act.

b. All LGUs are enjoined to form Local Task Forces for Healthy Food Marketing Environment to implement the provisions of this Act, and shall mobilize local law enforcement to apprehend violators of this Act and to institute the appropriate criminal proceedings therefor.

Such task forces shall be led by a local office with expertise on childhood nutrition and/or health promotion, and shall include youth and civil society representation, which representation shall strictly comply with Sections 25 and 26 of this Act.

The LTF shall submit reports to the NTF of any prohibited marketing herein denied, removed, disabled, or acted upon, as well as complaints received from individuals or organizations, annually beginning from the implementation of the prohibitions of this Act.

c. LGUs may mobilize the Special Health Fund under Republic Act No. 11223 or the Universal Healthcare Act, among other resources available, to implement local projects, programs, and activities consistent with this Act.

SEC. 22. Role of the Ad Standards Council (ASC) and other entities.

a. The ASC shall revise its standards, guidelines, codes of ethics, and other rules and regulations in compliance with the provisions of this Act, no later than one (1) year from its effectivity.

b. Without prejudice to other provisions of this Act, all entities involved in the marketing chain, whether analog or digital, including digital media or e-commerce platforms shall:

i. Monitor and remove or disable any prohibited marketing upon notice by the NTF that a violation of this Act may have occurred;

ii. Establish an effective process and mechanism to receive and act on complaints from individuals and organizations for violations of this Act as may be required by NTF, and report to the NTF actions taken on said complaints; and

iii. Preserve relevant documents, websites, webpages, upon request of the NTF.

SEC. 23. Inspection powers and record keeping. The FDA through its registered agents shall have the power to inspect the premises and records of manufacturers and distributors to determine compliance with the provisions of Sections 6, 7, 9, and 10 of this Act. The FDA shall develop guidelines to prescribe procedures and requirements for record-keeping.

SEC. 24. Compliance by micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs). The DTI, in coordination with other relevant government agencies and stakeholders, shall develop and implement programs to assist micro, small, and medium-sized food business operators of prepackaged food covered by this Act.

SEC. 25. Policy against industry interference. Government, including institutions and instrumentalities of the State at the national and sub-national levels and to persons working in government or engaged by government to work on its behalf, shall ensure that policy setting and implementation of laws that ultimately aim to promote the right to health of all Filipinos, especially children, are based on best available evidence free from conflict of interest and protected from the commercial and other vested interests of the food and beverage industry.

SEC. 26. Declaration against conflict of interest. All representatives of government agencies and organizations, including civil society, non-government, grassroots, and international organizations, that take any part, directly or indirectly, in the setting and implementing of policies and measures that are part of the strategic framework of measures to reduce overweight and obesity shall be required to fully

accomplish a signed declaration under oath prepared by the DOH that states, among others, that they are not affiliated with the food and beverage industry, and that they do not act on such industry's behalf or interests.

The signed and notarized copy of such declarations shall be made available to the public primarily via the DOH website and other means to readily access such information.

SEC. 27. 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 NTF members in Section 19 herein may engage civil society organizations and the private sector, as long as they are not affiliated or related with the food and beverage industry and have signed a declaration against conflict of interest described in Section 26, 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 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.

c. The DOH shall develop and publicize mechanisms for filing anonymous complaints, including the provision of hotlines and whistleblower complaints, to encourage citizen participation in the compliance monitoring and surveillance of this Act.

SEC. 28. International cooperation and provision on technical and financial assistance. The State recognizes that international and regional cooperation is an important component of regulating cross-border marketing of prepackaged food products required to have a warning label.

For this purpose, NTF members may seek and receive technical and/or financial assistance from international organizations, except those that belong to or are affiliated with the food and beverage industry as defined herein, for the purpose of implementing the provisions or pursuing the objectives of this Act, subject to existing laws, rules, and regulations, provided that Sections 25 and 26 of this Act are strictly complied with.

**ARTICLE V
PENALTIES**

SEC. 29. Penalties. The following penalties shall be imposed for each violation of the prohibitions in this Act:

- a. For violations of Sections 6, 7, 9, 10, 13, and 14 of this Act, the following penalties shall be imposed:

Offender	First (1st) Offense	Second (2nd) Offense	Third (3rd) Offense
Large enterprise	Fine of not less than Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (Php 500,000) but not more than One Million Pesos (Php 1,000,000)	Fine of not less than One Million Pesos (Php 1,000,000) but not more than Five Million Pesos (Php 5,000,000)	Fine of not less than Five Million Pesos (Php 5,000,000) but not more than Ten Million Pesos (Php 10,000,000)
MSMEs or any other enterprise not considered as a large enterprise by the DTI	Fine of not less than Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000) but not more than Ten Thousand Pesos (Php 10,000)	Fine of not less than Ten Thousand Pesos (Php 10,000) but not more than Twenty Thousand Pesos (Php 20,000)	Fine of not less than Twenty Thousand Pesos (Php 20,000) but not more than Fifty Thousand Pesos (Php 50,000)
Natural person	Fine of not more than Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000)	Fine of not less than Five Thousand Pesos (Php 5,000) but not more than Ten Thousand Pesos (Php 10,000)	Fine of not less than Ten Thousand Pesos (Php 10,000) but not more than Twenty Thousand Pesos (Php 20,000) or imprisonment of not more than one (1) year, or both, at the discretion of the court

b. An additional fine of one percent (1%) of the economic value or cost of the violative product or One Thousand Pesos (Php 1,000), whichever is higher, shall be imposed for each day of the continuing violation.

c. A fine of not less than One Thousand Pesos (Php 1,000) nor more than One Hundred Fifty Thousand Pesos (Php 150,000), plus the additional fine of not more than One Thousand Pesos (Php 1,000) for each day of continuing violation shall be imposed against any trader, retailer and/or their agent, found to have committed the prohibited act under Section 11 of this Act.

d. The penalties imposed in this Section shall be without prejudice to other remedies or penalties and sanctions that are available or may be imposed by law.

e. No person shall be subject to the penalties under this Section for having sold, offered for sale, or transferred prepackaged food products that are not compliant with the provisions of Sections 6, 7, or 9 of this Act, if such sale, distribution or transfer was made in good faith.

A sale, distribution, or transfer is presumed to be made in good faith if the seller or distributor has obtained, in writing, a guaranty from the person or food business operator from whom the prepackaged food were obtained, that said prepackaged food are not covered by the requirements under Sections 6 and 7 of this Act.

SEC. 30. Other corrective actions. In addition to the fines and penalties in Section 29, the following corrective actions, if not initiated by the offenders themselves, shall be imposed by the appropriate authorities to the offenders:

- a. Seizure and condemnation, destruction, recall, and/or appropriate disposition of prepackaged food products that are considered misbranded under Section 10 of this Act, or items that constitute prohibited marketing under Sections 9(d), 13, or 14 of this Act;
- b. The issuance of a Cease and Desist Order (CDO) which shall specify that the trader or retailer and/or their agents shall cease and desist from concealment or obstruction of view of warning labels under Section 11 of this Act and that they shall be required to submit a report of compliance therewith within a reasonable time;
- c. Submission of a voluntary assurance of discontinuance of concealment or obstruction of warning labels under Section 11 of this Act;
- d. Issuance of take-down orders against prohibited advertising, promotion, and sponsorship content under Sections 13 or 14 of this Act;
- e. Suspension, revocation, or cancellation of applicable licenses, registrations, and permits to operate for business establishments and operators or drivers of public utility vehicles, including the submission of a recommendation to the LGU concerned for the cancellation or suspension of licenses, registrations, and permits;
- f. The withholding of any permit, license, authority, or registration pending from the appropriate agency or entity;
- g. Disapproval of an application for the issuance or renewal of a Certificate of Product Registration (CPR) by the FDA, including suspension, revocation, or cancellation of an existing CPR;
- h. Closure of the establishment by LGUs having jurisdiction over premises where a violation of this Act has been committed; and
- i. Censure.

SEC. 31. Liability of juridical and other persons.

- a. Should a violation of this Act be committed by a juridical person, the Chair of the Board, the President, the General Manager, or the partners and/or the persons directly responsible therefor shall be penalized.
- b. If the offender is an alien, they shall be deported after service of sentence and/or payment of fine without further deportation proceedings and shall be permanently barred from re-entering the Philippines.
- c. In case a violation is committed by, or in the interest of, a foreign juridical person duly licensed to engage in business in the Philippines, such license to engage in business in the Philippines shall be immediately revoked.

SEC. 32. Liability of government officials and employees. Public officials and employees who violate Section 25 or 26 of this Act, or who deliberately or knowingly fail to fulfill their responsibilities under this Act, shall be subject to administrative disciplinary action pursuant to relevant laws, rules, and regulations.

ARTICLE VI FINAL PROVISIONS

SEC. 33. Healthy Food Environment Trust Fund. A Healthy Food Environment Trust Fund is hereby created. All fines collected pursuant to the enforcement of this Act shall be used exclusively for its implementation and to fund other measures to promote a healthy food environment. The DOH shall be responsible for the management and control of the Trust Fund.

SEC. 34. Compliance monitoring. Not later than three (3) years after the date of the effectivity of this Act, and annually thereafter, the DOH shall submit to the President of the Philippines and to both Houses of Congress a monitoring report on the compliance of the food and beverage industry with this Act and all related laws, rules, regulations, and ordinances.

All reports required under this Act shall be made available to the public primarily via the DOH website and other means to readily access such information.

All members of the NTF are required to submit an annual report of their accomplishments to the DOH.

SEC. 35. Impact assessment. The DOH shall conduct an impact assessment every three (3) years to evaluate the effectiveness of the enforcement of this Act, health, behavioral, and social outcomes, and other matters relevant to implementation of this Act.

SEC. 36. Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). The DOH, in consultation with the members of the NTF in Section 19, shall promulgate such rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act within six (6) months from the date of publication of this Act.

SEC. 37. Transitory provision. Existing industries, businesses, manufacturers, distributors, and other stakeholders affected by the implementation of this Act shall be given six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act to comply with its requirements.

SEC. 38. Appropriations. The amount necessary to implement the provisions of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the concerned national government agencies.

SEC. 39. Repealing clause. All laws, decrees, ordinances, administrative orders, rules and regulations, or any part thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act are repealed or amended accordingly.

SEC. 40. Separability clause. Should any provision of this Act be subsequently declared unconstitutional, the other provisions not so declared shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 41. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette and at least two (2) newspapers of national circulation.

Approved,