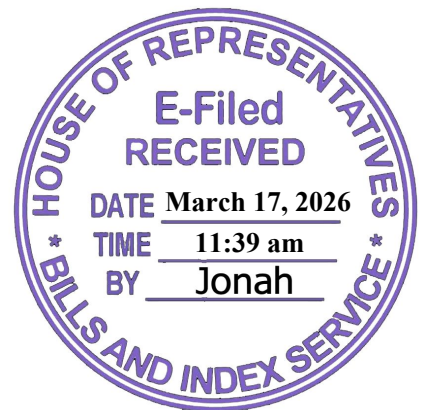


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 8595



Introduced by:

HON. CHRISTOPHERSON "COCO" M. YAP

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING QUALITY AND SAFETY STANDARDS FOR MINERAL,
CARBONATED, AND OTHER BOTTLED DRINKING WATER, PROVIDING FOR
SOURCE PROTECTION, MONITORING, LABELING, RECALLS, AND ENFORCEMENT,
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Access to safe and clean drinking water is essential to protecting public health. Today, many Filipino families, schools, and workplaces rely on bottled water, such as mineral, purified, sparkling, or distilled water, as a daily source of drinking water. Because these products are widely consumed, it is important to ensure that all bottled drinking water sold in the country is safe, free from harmful contaminants, and accurately labeled so that consumers know exactly what they are buying.

The government already has laws that regulate food and health products and set standards for drinking water safety. Agencies such as the Department of Health and the Food and Drug Administration are responsible for monitoring product quality, inspecting facilities, and enforcing health standards. However, despite these existing powers, gaps remain in the bottled water sector. In some cases, there are unclear rules on protecting water sources, inconsistent testing and monitoring, weak recall procedures when contamination occurs, and labels that do not clearly explain the water's source or treatment.

This bill seeks to address these concerns by establishing the Safe Bottled Water Act. The measure sets clear national standards to ensure that bottled drinking water is safe, properly tested, and produced from protected sources. It also strengthens

monitoring and inspection, requires accurate and transparent labeling, and creates clearer procedures for recalling products and informing the public if a health risk is discovered.

By strengthening safety standards and improving accountability in the bottled water industry, this bill aims to protect public health and ensure that consumers can trust the drinking water products available in the market. The measure promotes transparency, safety, and confidence in bottled water for all Filipinos.

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 *“Safe Bottled Water Act.”*

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. — It is the policy of the State to protect and promote public health by ensuring that bottled drinking water sold or distributed in the Philippines is safe, potable, accurately labeled, and produced under sanitary conditions. The State shall adopt a comprehensive regulatory framework for bottled drinking water that provides for science-based standards, source protection, monitoring and inspections, timely recalls and public advisories, and effective enforcement, through proper delegation and coordination of concerned agencies.

SECTION 3. Definition of Terms. — As used in this Act:

- (a) ***“Bottled Drinking Water”*** refers to water intended for human consumption that is sealed in bottles or other containers and offered for sale or distribution, including but not limited to purified water, distilled water, mineral water, spring water, artesian water, well water, carbonated water, sparkling water, and vended or refilled water in sealed containers.

- (b) ***"FDA"*** refers to the Food and Drug Administration under the Department of Health (DOH), as strengthened under Republic Act No. 9711.
- (c) ***"DOH"*** refers to the Department of Health.
- (d) ***"Approved Source"*** refers to a water source that meets criteria established under this Act and the implementing rules and regulations (IRR), including sanitary protection and vulnerability controls, and is authorized for use in bottled drinking water manufacturing.
- (e) ***"Health-Based Standard"*** refers to a maximum contaminant level, guideline value, or other quality parameter based on public health protection, as set under applicable national drinking water standards and FDA/DOH regulations.

SECTION 4. Coverage; Harmonization With Existing Standards. — This Act shall apply to all manufacturers, bottlers, processors, importers, distributors, wholesalers, and sellers of Bottled Drinking Water.

The standards and requirements under this Act shall be implemented in a manner consistent with: (i) the FDA's regulatory mandate over health products and establishments; and (ii) the DOH's jurisdiction to prescribe drinking water standards and accredit laboratories for water examinations.

SECTION 5. Quality Standards for Bottled Drinking Water. —

- (a) **Baseline Applicability of National Drinking Water Standards.** — The applicable national drinking water standards and health-based requirements prescribed by the DOH and enforced through FDA regulations shall apply to all Bottled Drinking Water.
- (b) **Product-Specific Standards and Definitions.** — Within twelve (12) months from the effectivity of this Act, the DOH, through the FDA and after due consultation with stakeholders, shall establish and publish specific standards and definitions for categories of Bottled Drinking Water, including mineral water and carbonated water. These shall include, at a minimum:
 - (1) limits for total dissolved solids, sulfate, sodium, and disinfection by-products such as trihalomethanes, as applicable; and

- (2) other limits and parameters as determined by established health-based drinking water standards and risk assessment.

SECTION 6. Source Protection; Approved Sources. — Within twelve (12) months from the effectivity of this Act, the FDA shall:

- (a) Establish criteria and procedures for identifying, approving, and periodically re-evaluating Approved Sources of Bottled Drinking Water; and
- (b) Prescribe minimum sanitary protection criteria for Approved Sources, including, as applicable:
 - (1) minimum construction and integrity standards for water wells and intake structures;
 - (2) minimum separation distances or protective buffers from potential sources of contamination, including upstream wastewater discharges, septic tanks, landfills, waste impoundments, and abandoned wells; and
 - (3) vulnerability and contamination-risk assessment requirements.

In implementing this Section, the FDA shall coordinate with concerned LGUs and the DENR, consistent with integrated water quality management policies.

SECTION 7. Licensing, Monitoring, Reporting, and Inspection. —

- (a) Facility Licensing and Compliance. — The FDA shall require manufacturers and bottlers of Bottled Drinking Water to secure and maintain appropriate FDA authorizations and certificates of compliance, and to comply with sanitary and good manufacturing practice requirements, in accordance with law.
- (b) Monitoring Program. — Within twelve (12) months from the effectivity of this Act, the FDA shall establish a bottled drinking water monitoring program that, at a minimum:
 - (1) requires periodic testing for regulated contaminants and, where necessary, monitoring for contaminants of emerging concern based on risk;
 - (2) prescribes sampling frequency proportionate to production volume and risk profile; and

- (3) requires that analysis or testing be performed only by laboratories duly accredited by the DOH.
- (c) Reporting Program and Public Advisories. — The FDA shall establish a reporting program that shall:
 - (1) set timelines and procedures for reporting test results, deviations, and incidents affecting safety;
 - (2) provide for prompt public advisories and notifications when a product is found non-compliant with health-based standards or otherwise presents a public health risk;
 - (3) maintain a national registry of bottled drinking water facilities, their authorizations, and compliance status, subject to confidentiality and lawful disclosure rules; and
 - (4) require retention of sampling and analysis records for not less than two (2) years, which shall be available for official review upon lawful request.
- (d) Inspection Program. — The FDA shall establish a facility inspection program that includes, at a minimum, two (2) scheduled inspections per year and one (1) risk-based unannounced inspection per year, subject to adjustments based on compliance history and risk classification.

SECTION 8. Recall and Corrective Actions. — Within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act, the FDA shall:

- (a) establish recall procedures and public notification guidelines for bottled drinking water that fails to meet applicable standards or poses a health risk; and
- (b) require each manufacturer or bottler to develop, maintain, and submit a recall plan, including traceability, customer notification, product retrieval, and disposal procedures.

SECTION 9. Prohibition of Dual Use of Bottling Equipment. — Within twelve (12) months from the effectivity of this Act, the FDA shall prescribe sanitary rules that prohibit the processing and bottling of non-carbonated Bottled Drinking Water using equipment primarily used for milk, fruit juice, or other food products likely to contribute nutrients for microbiological growth, unless effective cleaning, sanitation, and validation protocols approved by the FDA are implemented.

SECTION 10. Bottling, Packaging, and Storage Study. — The FDA shall conduct a comprehensive study of contaminants and degradation risks arising from bottling, packaging materials, handling, transport, and storage of Bottled Drinking Water, and shall publish evidence-based recommendations. The FDA may adopt additional standards based on the study, consistent with this Act.

SECTION 11. Labeling; Consumer Information. — Within six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act, the DOH, through the FDA, shall establish and enforce clear, uniform labeling requirements for all Bottled Drinking Water products, which shall include, at a minimum:

- (a) the declared water type/category and its definition;
- (b) the source (e.g., spring, well, municipal source), stated in plain language;
- (c) the type of treatment or process applied, if any;
- (d) the date of bottling or production lot code with a consumer-facing explanation;
- (e) the name and address of the manufacturer/bottler, and the FDA authorization reference;
- (f) numerical specification of sodium content, where applicable; and
- (g) such other consumer information necessary to prevent misleading labeling.

SECTION 12. Enforcement Powers; Coordination. — The FDA shall be the primary implementing and enforcement agency for this Act, in coordination with the DOH, LGUs, and other relevant agencies. For purposes of this Act, the FDA may conduct inspections, collect samples, require reports, and take appropriate enforcement actions consistent with its charter and applicable laws.

SECTION 13. Penalties. — Any person who manufactures, imports, distributes, sells, or offers for sale Bottled Drinking Water that is misbranded, adulterated, or non-compliant with applicable standards and orders issued pursuant to this Act shall be penalized in accordance with applicable laws enforced by the FDA, without prejudice to administrative sanctions, product seizure, suspension or revocation of authorizations, and recall orders.

SECTION 14. Appropriations. — The initial amount necessary to implement this Act shall be charged against the current appropriations of the FDA under the DOH. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 15. Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR). — Within one hundred twenty (120) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOH, through the FDA, and in coordination with the DENR and other concerned agencies, shall promulgate the IRR necessary to implement this Act.

SECTION 16. Separability Clause. — If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

SECTION 17. Repealing Clause. — All laws, rules, and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 18. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,