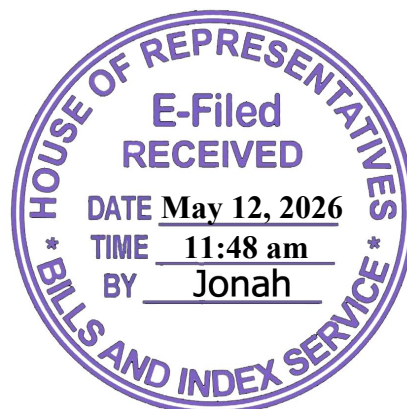


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 9208

Introduced by **REPRESENTATIVE AUDREY KAY T. ZUBIRI**

AN ACT
ESTABLISHING QUALITY STANDARDS FOR MINERAL, CARBONATED AND
OTHER BOTTLED WATER

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Access to clean, safe, and reliable drinking water is a primary right of every individual. Yet despite progress in the country's water service delivery, millions of Filipinos still face risks associated with unsafe water resources, contamination, and inadequate regulatory oversight.

A joint study by the Philippine Institute for Development Studies (PIDS) and the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) stated that only about half of the population has access to safely managed water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) in the Philippines. In some municipalities of the Bangsamoro and Region IV-B, up to 50 percent of the population, including children under five, drink "surface water"¹. These poor WASH practices accounted for 86 percent of diarrhea-related deaths in the country, with 35 percent of fatalities belong to children under the age of five².

These longstanding issues have contributed to the rapid expansion of the bottled-water market. Forty-four percent of Filipino households source their drinking water from bottled

¹ Surface water covers all water that flows over and is stored on the ground surface, which includes water in artificial reservoirs, lakes, rivers and streams, and glaciers, snow, and ice.

² <https://www.pids.gov.ph/details/news/in-the-news/diarrhea-leading-cause-of-illness-hospitalization-in-ph-study>

water or water from refilling stations³. In 2024, the Philippine bottled water industry reached USD 1.22 billion, with projections of USD 2.44 billion by 2033—reflecting growing reliance on bottled water as a substitute for unreliable tap water and unsafe sources⁴.

However, the growing consumption of bottled water does not automatically guarantee safety. Studies on water treatment and purification practices in the Philippines highlight gaps in regulatory enforcement and oversight of drinking-water production, including bottled water. The Philippine National Standards for Drinking Water (PNSDW) emphasize the need for stricter safeguards on water quality, bottling processes, and contamination prevention⁵.

As households increasingly rely on bottled water—particularly during typhoons, supply interruptions, or contamination crises—there is greater urgency for the State to ensure that bottled water meets rigorous safety and quality standards. This proposed measure establishes a comprehensive regulatory framework for the bottled-water industry by requiring quality standards aligned with health-based drinking water regulations, clear labeling requirements for consumer protection, and regular monitoring, reporting and inspections.

This legislation is essential to safeguarding public health and ensuring accountability among bottled-water manufacturers. By instituting minimum standards, preventive controls, and transparent reporting, the State shall guarantee that every bottle of water sold to the public is safe, accurately labeled, and responsibly sourced.

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



AUDREY KAY T. ZUBIRI
Representative, 3rd District of Bukidnon

³ National Demographic Health Survey 2018

⁴ <https://www.imarcgroup.com/philippines-bottled-water-market>

⁵ [TNP-2012-34-2 5-del-Rosario Purification-and-Quality-of-Drinking-Water-Issues-and-Concerns.pdf](#)

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OTHER BOTTLED WATER

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

1 **SECTION 1.** This Act shall be known as the “*Safe Bottled Water Act of 2025.*”

2
3 **SEC. 2. Statement of Policy.** - It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the
4 health of the people. Towards this end, it shall ensure that potable, safe and affordable drinking
5 water is available to all the people by adopting a comprehensive policy framework to regulate
6 the activities of mineral, carbonated and other bottled water businesses including suppliers,
7 distributors and sellers thereof.

8
9 **SEC. 3. Quality Standards for Bottled Water.**

10 (a) The interim or revised national primary drinking water regulations concerning
11 maximum containment levels promulgated by the Food and Drugs Administration

(FDA) shall be applicable to all kinds of bottled drinking water including mineral, spring, natural sparkling and vended water.

(b) Within twelve (12) months after the date of the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Health (DOH) shall establish quality standards and definitions for mineral water and carbonated water, which shall include:

- 1) Limits for total dissolved solids, sulfate, sodium and trihalomethane content; and
- 2) As determined by established health-based drinking water standards.

SEC. 4. Source Protection. - Within twelve (12) months after the date of the effectivity of this Act, the FDA shall:

- (a) Identify safe sources of bottled water; and
- (b) Establish criteria to determine the adequacy as well as the protection of "approved sources" of bottled water including, but not limited to:
 - 1) Minimum construction standards for water wells;
 - 2) Minimum distance separation from upstream wastewater discharges; and
 - 3) Minimum distance separation from abandoned wells, septic tanks, waste impoundment and landfills.

SEC. 5. Monitoring, Reporting and Inspection. Within twelve (12) months after the date of the effectivity of this Act, the FDA shall:

- (a) Establish a bottled water monitoring program which, at a minimum, shall:
 - 1) Be as stringent as that used for public water supplies and which provides for yearly testing and monitoring for unregulated contaminants for which public water utilities must test; and
 - 2) Require that any analysis or testing be performed in an approved and certified laboratory.
- (b) Establish a bottled-water reporting program that shall:
 - 1) Stipulate timetables and procedures for timely reporting;
 - 2) Provide public notification procedures should any bottled water be found to be in excess of health-based standards;
 - 3) Establish a national registry of bottled water facilities and their most current reporting information; and

1 4) Require that records of sampling and analysis be maintained at the plant for
2 not less than two (2) years and shall be available for official review upon
3 request.

4 (c) Establish a bottled water facility inspection program which includes, at a minimum,
5 two (2) scheduled inspections a year and one (1) unscheduled inspection a year.
6

7 **SEC. 6. Recall Regulations.** - Within six (6) months after the date of the effectivity of
8 this Act, the FDA shall:

9 (a) Establish procedures and public notification guidelines for recall of a bottled water
10 product which fall below any health-based standard; and

11 (b) Require each bottled water manufacturer to develop and submit individual recall
12 notification and recall procedures.
13

14 **SEC. 7. Prohibition of Dual Use of Bottled Water Equipment.** - Within twelve (12)
15 months after the date of the effectivity of this Act, the FDA shall prohibit the processing and
16 bottling of noncarbonated water with equipment used to process milk, fruit juice or other food
17 products likely to contribute nutrients for microbiological growth.
18

19 **SEC. 8. Bottling, Packaging and Storage Study.** - The FDA shall conduct a
20 comprehensive study of contaminants and the extent to which they contribute to the
21 degradation of bottled water from the unique processing and storage of bottled water. The FDA
22 shall pay particular attention to contamination problems, which may arise from the bottling,
23 packaging or storage of bottled water products.
24

25 **SEC. 9. Labeling.** - Within six (6) months after the date of the enactment of this Act,
26 the DOH shall:

27 (a) Establish and enforce clear, concise, and encoded uniform source labeling
28 requirements for all bottled water products which, at a minimum includes:

29 1) The original source of the water;

30 2) Type of water;

31 3) Type of treatment, if any;

32 4) The date of bottling;

33 5) The address of the bottler; and

34 6) Provide numerical specification of sodium content.

1 (b) Define mineral water, spring water, naturally carbonated, naturally sparkling, well
2 water, natural well water, artesian water, natural artesian water, purified water,
3 distilled water, drinking water and all other variants of bottled water existing in the
4 market, and require that the definition for the appropriate product be placed on the
5 bottle.
6

7 **SEC. 10. Appropriations.** - The initial amount necessary to implement the provisions
8 of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the FDA under the
9 DOH. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued implementation of this Act
10 shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.
11

12 **SEC. 11. Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).** - The DOH shall issue the IRR
13 for this Act within one hundred twenty (120) days from its effectivity.
14

15 **SEC. 12. Separability Clause.** - If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or
16 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
17 valid or subsisting.
18

19 **SEC. 13. Repealing Clause.** - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
20 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent
21 with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed modified or amended accordingly.
22

23 **SEC. 14. Effectivity Clause.** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
24 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.
25

26 *Approved,*