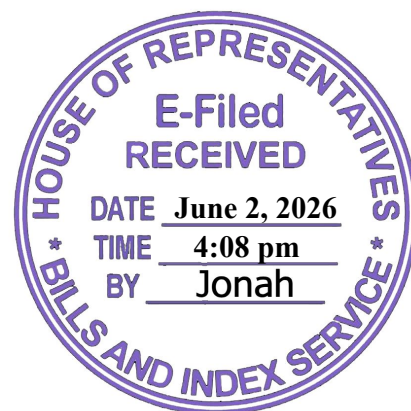




Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City
TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



House Bill No. 9680

Introduced by:
HON. KING GEORGE LEANDRO ANTONIO V. COLLANTES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The increasing prevalence of vaping among children and adolescents has become a growing public health concern in the Philippines. While vapor products were originally introduced as alternatives for adult smokers, the proliferation of flavored variants, such as fruit, candy, dessert, and beverage flavors, has made these products especially appealing to minors, leading to early nicotine addiction and long-term health risks.

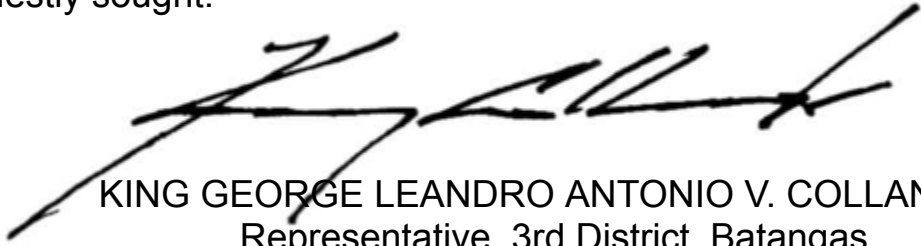
Numerous studies and health authorities, including the Department of Health, have warned that nicotine exposure during adolescence can impair brain development, increase susceptibility to addiction, and serve as a gateway to conventional smoking. Despite existing laws regulating tobacco and vapor products, the availability and aggressive marketing of flavored vape products continue to undermine efforts to protect minors from harmful substances.

This proposed measure seeks to address this gap by specifically prohibiting the sale, distribution, and promotion of flavored vapor products to minors. By focusing on flavors that are designed to attract younger consumers, the bill reinforces the State's duty to safeguard the health and welfare of children without unduly restricting adult access to regulated products.

The measure also strengthens accountability among retailers and online sellers by requiring strict age verification and imposing graduated penalties for violations. In doing so, it complements existing laws such as Republic Act No. 9211, Republic Act No. 11467, and Republic Act No.

11900, and ensures that the protection of minors remains paramount in the regulation of vapor products.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'K. Collantes', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

KING GEORGE LEANDRO ANTONIO V. COLLANTES
Representative, 3rd District, Batangas



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HOUSE BILL NO. 9680

Introduced by: HON. KING GEORGE LEANDRO ANTONIO V. COLLANTES

AN ACT
PROHIBITING THE SALE, DISTRIBUTION, AND PROMOTION OF
FLAVORED VAPOR PRODUCTS TO MINORS, AND PROVIDING
PENALTIES THEREFOR

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 “Flavored Vape Products Protection for Minors Act.”

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. —

It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect the health and well-being of children and the youth from the harmful effects of nicotine addiction and exposure to hazardous substances. The State recognizes that flavored vapor products are particularly attractive to minors and contribute to the initiation of smoking and vaping among the youth. Accordingly, the State shall regulate and restrict access to such products to safeguard public health.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. —

As used in this Act:

(a) **Minor** refers to any person below eighteen (18) years of age.

(b) **Vapor Product or Vape Product** refers to any non-combustible product, whether electronic or mechanical, that delivers nicotine or any

other substance through aerosolization, including electronic cigarettes, pods, cartridges, and similar devices, as defined under existing laws.

(c) **Flavored Vapor Product** refers to any vapor product that imparts a distinguishable taste or aroma other than tobacco, including but not limited to fruit, candy, dessert, chocolate, mint, menthol, beverage, or similar flavors.

(d) **Retailer** refers to any person or entity engaged in the sale or distribution of vapor products, whether through physical stores, online platforms, or other means.

SEC. 4. Prohibited Acts. — It shall be unlawful for any person or entity to:

(a) Sell, distribute, or provide flavored vapor products to minors;

(b) Allow the purchase of flavored vapor products by minors through online platforms, delivery services, or other indirect means;

(c) Sell flavored vapor products without requiring valid proof of age from the purchaser; and

(d) Promote, advertise, or market flavored vapor products in a manner that is appealing to or primarily directed at minors.

SEC. 5. Duties of Retailers and Online Sellers. — All retailers and online sellers of vapor products shall:

(a) Require and verify valid government-issued identification prior to the sale of any vapor product;

(b) Implement age-verification mechanisms for online sales; and

(c) Display conspicuous notices stating that the sale of flavored vapor products to minors is prohibited by law.

SEC. 6. Penalties. — Any person or entity found guilty of violating this Act shall be subject to the following penalties:

(a) **First offense** — A fine of not less than Fifty Thousand Pesos (₱50,000.00) and mandatory attendance in a government-approved health education program;

(b) **Second offense** — A fine of not less than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (₱100,000.00) and suspension of business license for a period of thirty (30) days;

(c) **Third and subsequent offenses** — A fine of not less than Two Hundred Thousand Pesos (₱200,000.00), revocation of business license, and imprisonment of not more than six (6) months, at the discretion of the court.

If the offender is a corporation, partnership, or association, the penalty shall be imposed upon the responsible officers.

SEC. 7. Enforcement. — The Department of Health (DOH), the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the Local Government Units (LGUs), and other concerned agencies shall jointly enforce the provisions of this Act and issue the necessary rules and regulations.

SEC. 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations. — Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DOH, in coordination with the DTI and other concerned agencies, shall promulgate the necessary implementing rules and regulations.

SEC. 9. Separability Clause. — If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 10. Repealing Clause. — All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 11. Effectivity. — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,