

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10540



Introduced by: Hon. Keith Micah "Atty. Mike" D.L. Tan

AN ACT
PROHIBITING THE ACCESS OF CHILDREN TO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND
PRESCRIBING PENALTIES THEREFOR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

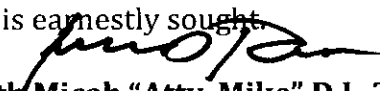
While substances like heroin or methamphetamine are widely viewed as the most dangerous, alcohol is objectively ranked as the most harmful drug overall when evaluating both personal and societal impact. This conclusion is rooted in a landmark study by the Independent Scientific Committee on Drugs, which scored substances based on physical, psychological, and community harm. While illicit drugs scored higher for individual destruction, alcohol scored significantly higher for harm inflicted on others. Its legal status, widespread social acceptance, and high accessibility make it uniquely dangerous, often masking the early warning signs of physical dependency while easing the path toward chronic health issues like cirrhosis, cardiovascular disease, cancer, and shortened life expectancy.¹

According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, underage drinking severely impairs judgment, alters brain development, and increases the risk of later dependency. Furthermore, youth alcohol use directly escalates the likelihood of fatal accidents, physical or sexual assault, and risky sexual behavior leading to teen pregnancy or even sexually transmitted diseases (STDs).

In the Philippines, a study of the World Health Organization (WHO) reveals that 2 out of 10 Filipinos ages 15 to 18 years of age drink alcohol and 6 out of 10 are not content with two bottles of alcoholic beverages. According to the WHO Youth Violence and Alcohol Fact Sheet, 14% of 15 to 24-year-olds reported physically hurting someone due to drinking. It was also discovered that many Filipinos are binge drinkers which result in domestic violence, rape and physical abuse.

Alcoholism and violence have become key public health issues that require urgent attention. This bill seeks to prohibit children's access to alcohol and alcoholic beverages in the Philippines by establishing clear legal boundaries, community safeguards, and strict accountability for violators.

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


Keith Micah "Atty. Mike" D.L. Tan
4th District, Quezon

¹ Gateway Foundation. (2026, August 12). *Why alcohol is the most harmful drug*.
<https://www.gatewayfoundation.org/blog/alcohol-most-harmful-drug/>

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 10540

Introduced by: Hon. Keith Micah "Atty. Mike" D.L. Tan

AN ACT
PROHIBITING THE ACCESS OF CHILDREN TO ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES AND
PRESCRIBING PENALTIES THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Anti-Underage Drinking Act."

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual, and social well-being. Towards this end, the State shall undertake efforts to eliminate alcoholic beverages abuse and reduce underage drinking by prohibiting children's access to alcoholic beverages.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* - As used in this Act:

(1) "Alcoholic beverage" refers to any beverage intended for human consumption containing one-half of one percent (0.5%) or more alcohol by volume (ABV), whether obtained through fermentation, distillation, or any other process, and includes beer, wine, distilled spirits, malt beverages, mixed alcoholic drinks, fermented liquors, and traditional alcoholic beverages such as tuba, basi, tapuy, lambanog, and other similar alcoholic beverages.

(2) "Children" refers to persons below eighteen (18) years of age, or those over eighteen (18) years old but are unable to fully take care of themselves or protect themselves from abuse, neglect, cruelty, exploitation or discrimination because of a physical or mental disability or condition; and

(3) "Establishment" refers to a place used for commercial purposes, such as bars, restaurants, dance clubs, hotels, retail stores, supermarkets, and other places with common business areas.

(4) "Online seller" refers to any person, entity, electronic commerce platform, digital marketplace, mobile application, or other online facility engaged in the sale or offering for sale of alcoholic beverages through electronic means.

(5) "Proof of age" refers to any government-issued identification card, passport, driver's license, Philippine Identification Card, or any other valid identification prescribed under the implementing rules and regulations which clearly establishes that the holder is at least eighteen (18) years of age.

SEC. 4. *Prohibited Acts.* – The following acts are hereby prohibited and declared unlawful:

(1) The purchase of alcoholic beverages by children from vendors and other sources;

(2) Purchasing, procuring, furnishing, giving, or otherwise providing alcoholic beverages to a child.;

(3) Misrepresentation of one's age by presenting false identification or otherwise represent themselves as being of legal age to purchase alcoholic beverages;

(4) Allowing the consumption or possession of any alcoholic beverages by a person under eighteen (18) years of age on an establishment's premises, no matter who purchased the alcoholic beverages or where they were purchased; and

(5) Selling, giving, or otherwise providing alcoholic beverages to children by an establishment which is licensed to sell alcoholic beverages, or for any employee of that licensee, to sell or furnish any alcoholic beverages at any time to a person under 18 years of age.

(6) Selling or delivering alcoholic beverages through an online platform or delivery service without complying with the age verification requirements under this Act; and

(7) Knowingly allowing another person to use one's identification card or presenting a false or altered identification card for the purpose of purchasing alcoholic beverages.

SEC. 5. *Mandatory Age Verification.* – Every establishment, vendor, employee, online seller, or other person engaged in the sale or distribution of alcoholic beverages shall require proof of age from any purchaser who reasonably appears to be below twenty-five (25) years of age before completing any sale or service of alcoholic beverages.

Failure to verify the age of the purchaser shall constitute prima facie evidence of negligence under this Act.

SEC. 6. *Online Sale and Delivery of Alcoholic Beverages.* – Any online seller, electronic commerce platform, delivery service, or similar intermediary engaged in the sale or delivery of alcoholic beverages shall implement reasonable age verification measures before accepting an order and shall require proof of age upon delivery.

Delivery personnel shall refuse delivery whenever the recipient fails to establish that he or she is at least eighteen (18) years of age.

SEC. 7. *Warning Notices.* – Every establishment licensed or authorized to sell alcoholic beverages shall conspicuously display at every point of sale a notice stating:

"SALE OR SERVICE OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES TO PERSONS BELOW EIGHTEEN (18) YEARS OF AGE IS PROHIBITED BY LAW."

The Department of the Interior and Local Government shall prescribe the minimum specifications for such notice under the implementing rules and regulations.

SEC. 8. *Interventions for Children.* - Any children who has violated any of the

provisions of this Act shall be afforded the following interventions:

For the first offense, the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC) will counsel the child before such child is properly handed over to the parent/s or guardian/s;

A child found violating this Act for the second time will be required to attend, together with the parent/s or guardian/s, two (2) consecutive regular sessions of counselling conducted by the BCPC, which shall include this matter as part of its session's agenda: *Provided, That* the BCPC Chairperson shall issue a certificate of compliance on the penalty by the concerned child with the parent/s or guardian/s. *Provided further, That* the child with the parent/s or guardian/s shall be required to submit the certification issued by the BCPC Chairperson to the Punong Barangay and the apprehending officer within two (2) months from the date of violation. *Provided finally, That* non-compliance with the counselling requirement will elevate the matter to the DSWD for proper disposition.

For the third and every subsequent offense the child shall be handed over to the DSWD office with jurisdiction over the locality of the residence of the child, for appropriate counselling and proper disposition on the matter.

Children found violating this Act shall not incur criminal liability but shall instead be subject to the interventions provided under this Section, without prejudice to the provisions of Republic Act No. 9344, otherwise known as the "Juvenile Justice and Welfare Act of 2006," as amended.

SEC. 9. Penalties. – Any person of legal age who violates any provision of this Act shall suffer a fine of not less than Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00) but not more than Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00), or imprisonment of not more than three (3) months, or both, at the discretion of the court.

Where the offender is an establishment licensed or authorized to sell alcoholic beverages, the following administrative penalties shall likewise apply:

- (a) First offense – Fine of Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00);
- (b) Second offense – Fine of Thirty Thousand Pesos (P30,000.00) and suspension of the business permit or authority to sell alcoholic beverages for a period not exceeding thirty (30) days; and
- (c) Third and succeeding offenses – Fine of One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00) and revocation of the license or permit to sell alcoholic beverages.

If the offender is a corporation, partnership, association, or similar entity, the responsible directors, officers, managers, or employees who knowingly participated in or authorized the violation shall be held liable.

SEC. 10. Community Involvement. – Any person who has personal knowledge of the existence of any person or children violating any provisions of this Act is encouraged to immediately report the attention of any official from the closest barangay, police officer, or other person in authority in order to report the incident.

SEC. 11. *Non-implementation or Violations of this Act.* - Any public officer vested with the duty to implement the law, who shall knowingly and maliciously prevent, prohibit, refuse, discontinue, or violate the implementation of any provisions of this Act, or any of the rules and regulations promulgated in accordance thereof, shall be punished by imprisonment of not less than one (1) month but not more than six (6) months, and temporary suspension from public service.

The public officer liable under this Section shall, in addition to the imprisonment, be held administratively liable under applicable laws.

SEC. 12. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Interior and Local Government, in consultation with the Liga ng mga Barangay sa Pilipinas, Council for the Welfare of Children, National Youth Commission, Department of Social Welfare and Development, and other concerned agencies of government and the private sector shall promulgate the rules and regulations to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 13. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 14. *Separability Clause.* - If any part of provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, other provisions hereof which are not affected hereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 15. *Effectivity.* - This act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,