

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

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **11278**



Introduced by **Representative ERIC G. YAP**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to restrict the purchase, sale, possession, and provision of alcoholic beverages to persons below twenty-one (21) years of age and other individuals who, because of a physical or mental disability or condition, are unable to adequately protect themselves from abuse or exploitation. It also holds adults and establishments accountable for selling and providing alcohol to these individuals.

The World Health Organization¹, has identified alcohol as a psychoactive and dependence-producing substance associated with more than two hundred (200) diseases, injuries, and health conditions. Starting to drink at an early age may also increase the risk of developing harmful drinking habits later in life. Preventing access to alcohol among young people is therefore an important measure to protect their health and well-being. The Philippines currently does not have a law which prohibits underage access to alcoholic beverages, and that sets the guidelines for enforcing such prohibition. As a result, protection and enforcement may vary across communities.

This proposed measure clearly defines the prohibited acts, allocates responsibilities among establishments, parents, local government units, and government agencies in enforcing the law. It also recognizes that young and vulnerable individuals should receive guidance rather than be subjected immediately to criminal penalties, therefore adopting interventions that emphasize rehabilitation over punishment for young offenders.

The consequences of underage drinking extend far beyond a single act of alcohol consumption. Early exposure to alcohol can disrupt a young person's education, impair physical and mental development, and increase the risk of

¹ World Health Organization. (2024, June 28). *Alcohol*. Accessed from: <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/alcohol>. Accessed on July 26, 2026.

behaviors that place both the individual and the community in harm's way. Enacting this legislation shall strengthen the country's commitment to safeguarding children and other vulnerable individuals while laying the foundation for healthier families, safer communities, and a more productive future.

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



HON. ERIC G. YAP

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AN ACT
PROHIBITING THE ACCESS OF UNQUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS TO
ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES, AND PRESCRIBING 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 “*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 alcohol abuse and reduce underage drinking by prohibiting Unqualified Individuals access to alcohol.

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

a. Alcohol refers to ethyl alcohol, ethanol, or spirits of wine including all dilutions, purifications and mixtures thereof, from whatever source by whatever process produced and shall include whisky, brandy, rum, gin, tequila, and vodka and other similar products or mixtures. It shall also include, but not be limited to, malt beverages, mixed or fermented liquors, *tuba*, *basi*, *tapuy*, and *lambanog*;

b. Alcoholic beverages refer to liquor or brew containing alcohol as the active agent;

c. Unqualified individuals refer to persons under age of twenty-one (21) years old, or those over twenty-one (21) 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

d. 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.

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

a. Purchasing alcohol or alcoholic beverages by unqualified individuals from vendors and other sources;

b. Purchasing or obtaining alcohol or alcoholic beverages for unqualified individuals;

c. Misrepresenting one's age by presenting false identification, or otherwise represent themselves as being of legal age to purchase alcohol or alcoholic beverages;

d. Allowing the consumption or possession of any alcohol or alcoholic beverages by a person under twenty-one (21) years of age on an establishment's premises, no matter who purchased the alcohol or alcoholic beverages or where they were purchased; and

e. Selling, giving, or otherwise providing alcohol or alcoholic beverages to unqualified individuals by an establishment which is licensed to sell alcohol or alcoholic beverages; or for any employee of that licensee, to sell or furnish any alcohol or alcoholic beverages at any time to a person under twenty-one (21) years old.

SEC. 5. *Interventions for Unqualified Individuals.* - Any unqualified individual who has violated any of the provisions of this Act shall be afforded the following interventions:

a. For the first offense, the Barangay Council for the Protection of Children (BCPC) shall counsel the unqualified individual before such one is properly handed over to the parent/s or guardian/s.

b. For the second offense, the unqualified individual shall be required to attend, together with their parent/s or guardian/s, two (2) consecutive counselling sessions conducted by the BCPC, which shall include the 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 unqualified individual with the parent/s or guardian/s; *Provided, further*, That the unqualified individual 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.

c. For the third and every subsequent offense, the unqualified individual 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.

SEC. 6. *Penalties.* – Any person of legal age or any establishment who violates any of the provisions of this Act shall be punished by a fine of Fifty thousand pesos (Php 50,000.00) or imprisonment of not more than three (3) months.

For succeeding offenses, both penalties shall apply in addition to the revocation of the license to operate a business connected with the selling of alcohol or alcoholic beverages. If the violation of any provisions of this Act is committed by a corporation, partnership, association or similar entity, the president, General Manager, or most senior officers shall be held liable for the offense.

SEC. 7. *Community Involvement.* – Any person who has personal knowledge of the existence of any person or unqualified individuals violating any provisions of this Act must immediately call the attention of any official from the closest barangay, police officer, or other person in authority in order to report the incident.

SEC. 8. *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. 9. *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 necessary rules and regulations to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 10. *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. 11. *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. 12. *Effectivity.* – This act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,