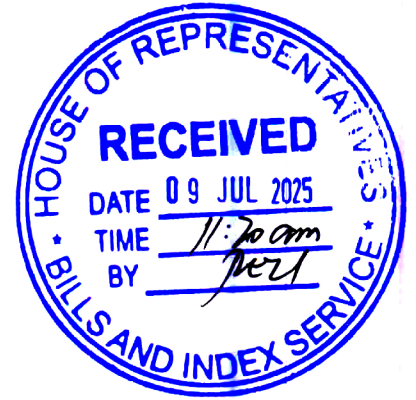


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Resolution No. 43



Introduced by **REP. NATHANIEL “Atty. Nat” M. ODUCADO**

RESOLUTION
DIRECTING THE APPROPRIATE COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, TO INVESTIGATE THE IMPLEMENTATION OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 11900, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE “VAPORIZED NICOTINE AND NON-NICOTINE PRODUCTS REGULATION ACT”

WHEREAS, Republic Act No. 11900, otherwise known as the Vaporized Nicotine and Non-Nicotine Products Regulation Act, enacted in July 25, 2022 to regulate vaporized nicotine products (VNPs), non-nicotine products, and novel tobacco products in the Philippines by increasing the minimum age of VNP consumers to 18 years old, prohibited the use of flavor descriptors, required stricter packaging and labeling, and inspections and notices to physical and online stores in 2023;

WHEREAS, the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI) reported that only 0.7% of 31,570 online vape product listings were found compliant with R.A. 11900's safety, packaging, and labelling requirements, and that 229 out of 621 physical vape retailers inspected were non-compliant, resulting in the seizure of more than 1.4 million units of illicit vape products;

WHEREAS, prior to the enactment of R.A. No. 11900, around 37,500 Filipino youth ages 13 to 15 were vaping by 2021 based on the data from the Food & Nutrition Research Institute despite enactment of R.A. No. 11900, youth vape-users reached 423,185 by 2023 or a 1,000% increase from 2021,¹ equivalent to roughly 14% of teen vape-users prior to enactment of the law with over 70% of surveyed youth believing that vapes are “safe” despite the presence of toxic substances such as formaldehyde, acrolein, and heavy metals that increase risks of pulmonary and cardiovascular illness;

WHEREAS, despite advertising restrictions and ban on flavor descriptors, vape industry actors continue to sponsor youth-targeted events such as “Vape Fest,” utilizing social media influencers, and market products that use brightly colored or toy-like packaging, all of which contribute to youth normalization of vaping;

¹ *Surge in young people taking up vape alarming, says doctor* by Untalan, S. GMA Integrated News, March 5, 2025 available at https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/lifestyle/healthandwellness/938281/vape-industry-draws-more-youth-than-education-system-says-doctor/story/?utm_source=chatgpt.com

WHEREAS, the Department of Health (DOH) confirmed the country's first recorded death from EVALI (e-cigarette or vaping-associated lung injury) in 2024 involving a 22-year-old male, who suffered acute lung injury and cardiac arrest linked to vaping, and with earlier hospitalizations for vape-related lung injury (EVALI) among minors reported as early as 2019. In total, there are 7 cases of EVALI in the country: 16-year-old girl in October 2019, 6 cases from April to July 2023,² and the 22-year-old male in Laguna, an April 2024 case;

WHEREAS, international organizations including the World Health Organization, World Medical Association, and American Medical Association have consistently warned of the long-term health risks of e-cigarettes and called for stronger safeguards to prevent youth initiation and regulate flavorings, packaging, and access. There is growing evidence indicating that vaping cause lung inflammation, also called *lung inflammation*, and injury as well as systematic adverse effects in multiple organs.³

WHEREAS, in 2016, the United Kingdom Tobacco and Related Products Regulations enforced comprehensive vaping rules globally, including a maximum nicotine concentration of 20 mg/mL, cartridge limits of 2 mL, mandatory MHRA registration, proposed flavor bans, and strict packaging controls towards youth protection and harm reduction;

WHEREAS, instead of curbing the impact on the youth, data showed limited impact on actual youth usage despite stringent legal restrictions considering the 1,000% increase in youth consumption, and an EVALI death in 2024;

WHEREAS, while R.A. No. 9211 or the "Tobacco Regulation Act of 2003" restricts tobacco use to 21 years of age, R.A. No. 11900, on the contrary, lowered the minimum age for vape-use and/or access to 18 years old, weakening the protective threshold previously established under Republic Act No. 9211 and increasing adolescent exposure to nicotine addiction;

WHEREAS, the assignment of regulatory jurisdiction to the DTI under R.A. No. 11900 runs contrary to international public health norms that vest oversight of such products in technical health agencies such as the Food and Drug Administration (FDA);

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, as it is hereby resolved, that the appropriate committee of the House of Representatives conduct an inquiry in aid of legislation on the effective implementation of R.A. No. 11900, otherwise known as the "*Vaporized Nicotine and Non-Nicotine Products Regulation Act*".

Adopted,



REP. NATHANIEL "Atty Nat" M. ODUCCADO
1Tahanan Party List

² 6 kaso ng EVALI, naitala ngayong taon – DOH by Layson, M. Pilipino Star Ngayon, December 12, 2023, available at <https://www.philstar.com/Pilipino-star-ngayon/bansa/2023/12/12/2318177/6-kaso-ng-evali-naitala-ngayong-taon-doh>

³ Park, J., Crotty Alexander L., and Christiani D., *Vaping and Lung Inflammation and Injury*. <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10228557/#F2>