



SENATE  
S. No. 2763

'11 MAR 31 P 4 :43

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Introduced by Senator Lacson

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### EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 28, paragraph 1, Article VI of the 1987 Constitution states that: "The rule of taxation shall be uniform and equitable. The Congress shall evolve a progressive system of taxation."

During the public hearing of the Senate Ways and Means Committee on September 15, 2009, it was found that the current system of excise tax on alcohol products under RA No. 9334 is no longer an effective and efficient taxation scheme to improve government revenue and deter alcohol consumption.

The present alcohol tax system has multiple classifications of products with various tax rates, discriminates against brands that were introduced after December 31, 2003 and fails to track price movements. The multi-tiered rates under the present scheme create opportunities for discretion in classification of alcoholic beverages as well as push drinkers to consume lower priced, and therefore lower taxed brands of wines, distilled spirits and beer. The distinction between old and new brands creates an uneven playing field among alcohol products. The absence of a transparent benchmark by which the excise tax rates is adjusted to track inflation resulted in lower-than-projected revenue collection.

This bill therefore intends to address these problems so that the government can achieve its twin purpose of revenue generation and control alcoholic beverage consumption by imposing a unitary specific tax rate for these products. The unification of the tax rates on distilled spirits will be based on the strength of the spirits and will be undertaken in stages. In succeeding years, the specific tax rate shall be a singular rate that will be indexed to the alcohol price index.

The proposed excise tax system on alcohol products under this bill will be simple, effective and efficient. It will reduce administrative complications associated with the current multi-rate structure, provide a market conducive to pure competition, raise revenues and discourage alcohol consumption.

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

  
PANFILO M. LACSON  
Senator

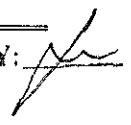
SENATE  
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**AN ACT**  
**RESTRUCTURING THE EXCISE TAX ON ALCOHOL PRODUCTS AMENDING**  
**FOR THE PURPOSE PERTINENT SECTIONS OF THE NATIONAL INTERNAL**  
**REVENUE CODE, AS AMENDED**

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

1           **SECTION 1.** Section 141 of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997,  
2 as amended by Republic Act No. 9334, is hereby further amended to read as  
3 follows:

4           “SEC 141. *Distilled Spirits.* – On distilled spirits, there shall be  
5 collected, subject to the provisions of Section 133 of this Code, excise  
6 taxes **IN ACCORDANCE WITH ALCOHOL CONTENT** as follows:

7           (a)   **45% ALCOHOL BY VOLUME AND LESS**

8                   **YEAR 1 -- P30.00 PER PROOF LITER**

9                   **YEAR 2 -- P80.00 PER PROOF LITER**

10                  **YEAR 3 -- P150.00 PER PROOF LITER**

11                   **PROVIDED, THAT, ON THE FOURTH YEAR**  
12                   **AND EVERY YEAR THEREAFTER, THE EXCISE**  
13                   **TAX RATES PRESCRIBED HEREIN SHALL BE**  
14                   **ADJUSTED TO ITS PRESENT VALUE USING AN**  
15                   **APPROPRIATE PRICE INDEX FOR ALCOHOLIC**  
16                   **DRINKS, AS PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL**  
17                   **STATISTICS OFFICE (NSO).”**

18           (b)   **MORE THAN 45% ALCOHOL BY VOLUME --**

19                   **P150.00 PER PROOF LITER**

1                   **PROVIDED, THAT, ON THE FOURTH YEAR**  
2                   **AFTER THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT AND**  
3                   **EVERY YEAR THEREAFTER, THE EXCISE TAX**  
4                   **RATES PRESCRIBED HEREIN SHALL BE**  
5                   **ADJUSTED TO ITS PRESENT VALUE USING AN**  
6                   **APPROPRIATE PRICE INDEX FOR ALCOHOLIC**  
7                   **DRINKS, AS PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL**  
8                   **STATISTICS OFFICE (NSO)."**

9                   ["(a) If produced from the sap of nipa, coconut, cassava, camote, or  
10                  buri palm or from the juice, syrup or sugar of the cane, provided such  
11                  materials are produced commercially in the country where they are  
12                  processed into distilled spirits per proof liter, Eleven pesos and sixty-five  
13                  centavos (P11.65)]

14                  ["(b) If produced from raw materials other than those enumerated in  
15                  the preceding paragraph, the tax shall be in accordance with the net retail  
16                  price per bottle of seven hundred fifty milliliter (750 ml.) volume capacity  
17                  (excluding the excise tax and the value-added tax) as follows"]

18                  ["(1) Less than two hundred and fifty pesos (P250.00) – One  
19                  hundred twenty six pesos (P126.00) per proof liter;]

20                  ["(2) Two hundred and fifty pesos (P250.00) up to Six hundred and  
21                  seventy-five pesos (P675.00) – Two hundred fifty-two pesos (P252.00),  
22                  per proof liter; and]

23                  ["(3) More than Six hundred and seventy-five pesos (P675.00) –  
24                  Five hundred four pesos (P504.00), per proof liter.]

25                  (c) Medicinal preparations, flavoring extracts, and all other  
26                  preparations, except toilet preparations, of which, excluding  
27                  water, distilled spirits form the chief ingredient, shall be  
28                  subject to the same tax as such chief ingredient.

1           “**This tax shall be proportionally increased for any strength of the**  
2           **spirits taxed over proof spirits, and the tax shall attach to this substance as**  
3           **soon as it is in existence as such, whether it be subsequently separated**  
4           **as pure or impure spirits, or transformed into any other substances either**  
5           **in the process of original production or by any subsequent process.**

6           “ **‘Spirits or distilled spirits’** is the substance known as ethyl  
7           alcohol, ethanol or spirits of wine, including all dilutions, purifications and  
8           mixtures thereof, from whatever source, by whatever process produced,  
9           and shall include whisky, brandy, rum, gin and vodka, and other similar  
10          products or mixtures.

11          “ **‘Proof Spirits’** is liquor containing one-half (1/2) of its volume of  
12          alcohol of a specific gravity of seven thousand nine hundred and thirty-  
13          nine ten thousandths (0.7939) at fifteen degrees centigrade (15°C). A  
14          **‘proof liter’** means a liter of proof spirits.

15          [“ **‘Net retail price’**, as determined by the Bureau of Internal  
16          Revenue through a price survey to be conducted by the Bureau of Internal  
17          Revenue itself, or by the National Statistics Office when deputized for the  
18          purpose by the Bureau of Internal Revenue, shall mean the price at which  
19          the distilled spirits is sold on retail in at least ten (10) major supermarkets  
20          in Metro Manila, excluding the amount intended to cover the applicable  
21          excise tax and the value-added tax. For brands which are marketed  
22          outside Metro Manila, the **‘net retail price’** shall mean the price at which  
23          the distilled spirits is sold in at least five (5) major supermarkets in the  
24          region excluding the amount intended to cover the applicable excise tax  
25          and the value-added tax.]

26          [“Variants of existing brands and variants of new brands which are  
27          introduced in the domestic market after the effectively of this Act shall be  
28          taxed under the proper classification thereof based on their suggested net

1 retail price: *Provided, however,* that such classification shall not, in any  
2 case, be lower than the highest classification of any variant of that brand.]

3 [" A '**variant of a brand**' shall refer to a brand on which a modifier  
4 is prefixed and/or suffixed to the root name of the brand.]

5 [" New brands, as defined in the immediately following paragraph,  
6 shall initially be classified according to their suggested net retail price.  
7 Willful understatement of the suggested net retail price by as much as  
8 fifteen percent (15%) of the actual net retail price shall render the  
9 manufacturer liable for additional excise tax equivalent to the tax due and  
10 difference between the understated suggested net retail price and the  
11 actual net retail price.]

12 [" '**New brand**' shall mean a brand registered after the date of  
13 effectivity of R.A. No. 8240.]

14 [" '**Suggested net retail price**' shall mean the net retail price at  
15 which new brands, as defined above, of locally manufactured or imported  
16 distilled spirits are intended by the manufacturer or importer to be sold on  
17 retail in major supermarkets or retail outlets in Metro Manila for those  
18 marketed nationwide, and in other regions, for those with regional  
19 markets. At the end of three (3) months from the product launch, the  
20 Bureau of Internal Revenue shall validate the suggested net retail price as  
21 defined herein and determine the correct tax bracket to which a particular  
22 new brand of distilled spirits, as defined above, shall be classified. After  
23 the end of eighteen (18) months from such validation, the Bureau of  
24 Internal Revenue shall revalidate the initially validated net retail price  
25 against the net retail price as of the time of revalidation in order to finally  
26 determine the correct tax bracket which a particular new brand of distilled  
27 spirits shall be classified: *Provided, however,* That brands of distilled  
28 spirits introduced in the domestic market between January 1, 1997 and  
29 December 31, 2003 shall remain in the classification under which the

1 Bureau of Internal Revenue has determined them to belong as of  
2 December 31, 2003. Such classification of new brands and brands  
3 introduced between January 1, 1997 and December 31, 2003 shall not be  
4 revised except by an act of Congress.]

5 [" The rates of tax imposed under this Section shall be increase by  
6 eight percent (8%) every two years starting on January 1, 2007.]

7 [" Any downward reclassification of present categories, for tax  
8 purposes, of existing brands of distilled spirits duly registered at the time  
9 of effectivity of this Act which will reduce the tax imposed herein, or the  
10 payment thereof, shall be prohibited.]

11 [" The classification of each brand of distilled spirits based on the  
12 average net retail price as of October 1, 1996, as set forth in Annex 'A',  
13 including the classification of brands for the same products which,  
14 although not set forth in said Annex 'A', were registered and were being  
15 commercially produced and marketed on or after October 1, 1996, and  
16 which continue to be commercially produced and marketed after the  
17 effectivity of this Act, shall remain in force until revised by Congress.]

18 "Manufacturers and importers of distilled spirits shall, within thirty  
19 (30) days from the effectivity of this Act, and within the first five (5) days of  
20 every third month thereafter, submit to the Commissioner a sworn  
21 statement of the volume of sales for each particular brand of distilled  
22 spirits sold at his establishment for the three-month period immediately  
23 preceding.

24 "Any manufacturer or importer who, in violation of this Section,  
25 knowingly misdeclares or misrepresents in his or its sworn statement  
26 herein required any pertinent data or information shall, upon final findings  
27 by the Commissioner that the violation was committed, be penalized by a  
28 summary cancellation or withdrawal of his or its permit to engage in  
29 business as manufacturer or importer of distilled spirits.

1           “Any corporation, association or partnership liable for any of the  
2 acts or omissions in violation of this Section shall be fined treble the  
3 amount of deficiency taxes, surcharges and interest which may be  
4 assessed pursuant to this Section.

5           “Any person liable for any of the acts or omission prohibited under  
6 this Section shall be criminally liable and penalized under Section 254 of  
7 this Code. Any person who willfully aids or abets in the commission of any  
8 such act or omission shall be criminally liable in the same manner as the  
9 principal.

10           “If the offender is not a citizen of the Philippines, he shall be  
11 deported immediately after serving the sentence, without further  
12 proceedings for deportation.”

13           **SEC. 2.** Section 142 of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as  
14 amended by Republic Act No. 9334, is hereby further amended to read as  
15 follows:

16           “SEC. 142. *Wines.* – On wines, there shall be collected per liter of  
17 volume capacity, the following taxes:

18           “(a) Sparkling wines/champagnes regardless of proof [, if the net  
19 retail price per bottle (excluding the excise tax and the value-added tax)  
20 is:] – **THREE HUNDRED PESOS (P300.00);**

21           [“(1) Five hundred pesos (P500.00) or less – One hundred forty-five  
22 pesos and sixty centavos (P145.60); and]

23           [“(2) More than Five hundred pesos (P500.00) – Four hundred  
24 thirty-six pesos and eighty centavos (P436.80)]

25           [“(b) Still wines containing fourteen percent (14%) of alcohol by  
26 volume or less, Seventeen pesos and forty-seven centavos (P17.47)]; and

27           [“(c) Still Wines containing more than fourteen percent (14%) but  
28 not more than twenty-five percent (25%) of alcohol by volume, Thirty-four  
29 pesos and ninety-four centavos (P34.94).]

1           “(b) STILL WINES, REGARDLESS OF PROOF – FIFTY PESOS  
2           (P50.00)

3                         *PROVIDED, THAT, A YEAR AFTER THE EFFECTIVITY*  
4           OF THIS ACT AND EVERY YEAR THEREAFTER, THE EXCISE TAX  
5           RATES PRESCRIBED HEREIN SHALL BE ADJUSTED TO ITS  
6           PRESENT VALUE USING AN APPROPRIATE PRICE INDEX FOR  
7           ALCOHOLIC DRINKS, AS PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL  
8           STATISTICS OFFICE (NSO).”

9           “Fortified wines containing more than twenty-five percent (25%) of  
10          alcohol by volume shall be taxed as distilled spirits. ‘**Fortified wines**’ shall  
11          mean natural wines to which distilled spirits are added to increase their  
12          alcohol strength.

13                        [“ ‘**Net retail price**’, as determined by the Bureau of Internal  
14          Revenue through a price survey to be conducted by the Bureau of Internal  
15          Revenue itself, or the National Statistics Office when deputized for the  
16          purpose by the Bureau of Internal Revenue, shall mean the price at which  
17          wine is sold on retail in at least ten (10) major supermarkets in Metro  
18          Manila, excluding the amount intended to cover the applicable excise tax  
19          and the value-added tax. For brands which are marketed outside Metro  
20          Manila, the ‘net retail price’ shall mean the price at which the wine is sold  
21          in at least five (5) major supermarkets in the region excluding the amount  
22          intended to cover the applicable excise tax and the value-added tax.]

23                        [“Variants of existing brands and variants of new brands which are  
24          introduced in the domestic market after the effectivity of this Act shall be  
25          taxed under the proper classification thereof based on their suggested net  
26          retail price: *Provided, however,* That such classification shall not, in any  
27          case, be lower than the highest classification of any variant of that brand.]

28                        [“A ‘**variant of a brand**’ shall refer to a brand on which a modifier is  
29          prefixed and/or suffixed to the root name of the brand.]



1           ["New brands, as defined in the immediately following paragraph,  
2 shall initially be classified according to their suggested retail price."]

3           [" **'New brand'** shall mean a brand registered after the date of  
4 effectivity of R.A. No. 8240."]

5           [" **'Suggested net retail price'** shall mean the net retail price at  
6 which new brands, as defined above, of locally manufactured or imported  
7 wines are intended by the manufacture or importer to be sold on retail in  
8 major supermarkets or retail outlets in Metro Manila for those marketed  
9 nationwide, and in other regions, for those with regional markets. At the  
10 end of three (3) months from the product launch, the Bureau of Internal  
11 Revenue shall validate the suggested retail price of the new brand against  
12 the net retail price as defined herein and determine the correct tax bracket  
13 under which a particular new brand of wine, as defined above, shall be  
14 classified. After the end of eighteen (18) months from such validation, the  
15 Bureau of Internal Revenue shall validate the initially validated net retail  
16 price against the net retail price as of the time of revalidation in order to  
17 finally determine the correct tax bracket which a particular new brand of  
18 wines shall be classified: *Provided, however,* That brands of wines  
19 introduced in the domestic market between January 1, 1997 and  
20 December 31, 2003 shall remain in the classification under which the  
21 Bureau of Internal Revenue has determined them to belong as of  
22 December 31, 2003. Such classification of new brands and brands  
23 introduced between January 1, 1997 and December 31, 2003 shall not be  
24 revised except by any act of Congress.]

25           ["The rates of tax imposed under this Section shall be increased by  
26 eight percent (8%) every two years starting on January 1, 2007 until  
27 January 1, 2011."]

28           ["Any downward reclassification of present categories, for tax  
29 purposes, of existing brands of wines duly registered at the time of the

1 effectivity of this Act which will reduce the tax imposed herein, or the  
2 payment hereof, shall be prohibited.”]

3 [“The classification of each brand of wines based on the average  
4 net retail price as of October 1, 1996, as set forth in Annex ‘B’, including  
5 the classification of brands for the same products which, although not set  
6 forth in said “Annex B” were registered and were being commercially  
7 produced and marketed after the effectivity of this Act, shall remain in  
8 force until revised by Congress.]

9 “Manufacturers and importers of wines shall, within thirty (30) days  
10 from the effectivity of this Act, and within the first five (5) days of every  
11 month thereafter, submit to the Commissioner a sworn statement of the  
12 volume of sales for each particular brand of wines sold at his  
13 establishment for the three month period immediately preceding.

14 “Any manufacturer or importer who, in violation of this Section,  
15 knowingly misdeclares or misrepresents in his or its sworn statement  
16 herein required any pertinent data or information shall, upon discovery, be  
17 penalized by a summary cancellation or withdrawal of his or its permit to  
18 engage in business as manufacturer or importer of wines.

19 “Any corporation, association or partnership liable for any of the  
20 acts or omissions in violation of this Section shall be fined treble the  
21 amount of deficiency taxes, surcharges and interest which may be  
22 assessed pursuant to this Section.

23 “Any person liable for any of the acts or omissions prohibited under  
24 this Section shall be criminally liable and penalize under Section 254 of  
25 this Code. Any person who willfully aids or abets in the commission of any  
26 such act or omission shall be criminally liable in the same manner as the  
27 principal.

1            “If the offender is not a citizen of the Philippines, he shall be  
2            deported immediately after serving the sentence, without further  
3            proceedings for deportation.”

4            **SEC. 3.** Section 143 of the National Internal Revenue Code of 1997, as  
5            amended by Republic Act No. 9334, is hereby further amended to read as  
6            follows:

7            **“SEC. 143. Fermented Liquor.** – There shall be levied, assessed and  
8            collected an excise tax on beer, lager beer, ale, porter and other fermented  
9            liquors except *tuba, basi, tapuy* and similar fermented liquors [in accordance with  
10           the following schedule:] **AN EXCISE TAX EQUIVALENT TO TWENTY-ONE**  
11           **PESOS AND FIFTY-TWO CENTAVOS (P21.52) PER LITER: PROVIDED,**  
12           **THAT, A YEAR AFTER THE EFFECTIVITY OF THIS ACT AND EVERY YEAR**  
13           **THEREAFTER, THE EXCISE TAX RATE PRESCRIBED HEREIN SHALL BE**  
14           **ADJUSTED TO ITS PRESENT VALUE USING AN APPROPRIATE PRICE**  
15           **INDEX FOR ALCOHOLIC DRINKS, AS PUBLISHED BY THE NATIONAL**  
16           **STATISTICS OFFICE (NSO).”**

17            [“(a) If the net retail price (excluding the excise tax and the value-  
18            added tax) per liter of volume capacity is less than Fourteen pesos and  
19            fifty centavos (P14.50), the tax shall be Eight pesos and twenty-seven  
20            centavos (P8.27) per liter;]

21            [“(b) If the net retail price (excluding the excise tax and value-  
22            added tax) per liter of volume capacity is Fourteen pesos and fifty  
23            centavos (P14.50) up to Twenty-two pesos (P22.00), the tax shall be  
24            Twelve pesos and thirty centavos (P12.30) per liter;]

25            [“(c) If the net retail price (excluding the excise tax and the value-  
26            added tax) per liter of volume capacity is more than Twenty-two pesos  
27            (P22.00), the tax shall be Sixteen pesos and thirty-three centavos  
28            (P16.33) per liter.]

1            **["Variants of existing brands and variants of new brands which are**  
2 introduced in the domestic market after the effectivity of this Act shall be  
3 taxed under the proper classification thereof based on their suggested net  
4 retail price: *Provided, however,* That such classification shall not, in any  
5 case, be lower than the highest classification of any variant of that brand.]

6            **["A 'variant of a brand' shall refer to a brand on which a modifier**  
7 is prefixed and/or suffixed to the root name of the brand.]

8            **["Fermented liquors which are brewed and sold at microbreweries**  
9 or small establishments such as pubs and restaurants shall be subject to  
10 the rate in paragraph (c) hereof.]

11           **["New brands, as defined in the immediately following paragraph,**  
12 shall initially be classified according to their suggested net retail price.]

13           **["'New brand' shall mean a brand registered after the date of**  
14 effectivity of R.A. No. 8240.]

15           **["'Suggested net retail price' shall mean the net retail price at**  
16 which new brands, as defined above, of locally manufactured or imported  
17 fermented liquor are intended by the manufacturer or importer to be sold  
18 on retail in major supermarkets or retail outlets in Metro Manila for those  
19 marketed nationwide, and in other regions, for those with regional  
20 markets. At the end of three (3) months from the product launch, the  
21 Bureau of Internal Revenue shall validate the suggested net retail price of  
22 the new brand against the net retail price as defined herein and determine  
23 the correct tax bracket to which a particular new brand of fermented liquor,  
24 as defined above, shall be classified. After the end of the eighteen (18)  
25 months from such validation, the Bureau of Internal Revenue shall  
26 revalidate the initially validated net retail price against the net retail price  
27 as of the time of revalidation in order to finally determine the correct tax  
28 bracket which a particular new brand of fermented liquors shall be  
29 classified: *Provided, however,* That brands of fermented liquors introduced

1 in the domestic market between January 1, 1997 and December 31, 2003  
2 shall remain in the classification under which the Bureau of Internal  
3 Revenue has determined them to belong as of December 31, 2003. Such  
4 classification of new brands and brands introduced between January 1,  
5 1997 and December 31, 2003 shall not be revised except by an act of  
6 Congress.]

7 **["Net retail price'**, as determined by the Bureau of Internal  
8 Revenue through a price survey to be conducted by the Bureau of  
9 Internal Revenue itself, or the National Statistics Office when deputized for  
10 the purpose by the Bureau of Internal Revenue, shall mean the price at  
11 which the fermented liquor is sold on retail in at least twenty (20) major  
12 supermarkets in Metro Manila (for brands of fermented liquor marketed  
13 nationally), excluding the amount intended to cover the applicable excise  
14 tax and the value-added tax. For brands which are marketed outside  
15 Metro Manila, the **'net retail price'** shall mean the price at which the  
16 fermented liquor is sold in at least five (5) major supermarkets in the  
17 region excluding the amount intended to cover the applicable excise tax  
18 and the value-added tax.]

19 **["The classification of each brand of fermented liquor based on its**  
20 **average net retail price as of October 1, 1996, as set forth in Annex 'C',**  
21 **including the classification of brands for the same products which,**  
22 **although not set forth in said Annex 'C', were registered and were being**  
23 **commercially produced and marketed on or after October 1, 1996, and**  
24 **which continue to be commercially produced and marketed after the**  
25 **effectivity of this Act, shall remain in force until revised by Congress.]**

26 **["The rates of tax imposed under this Section shall be increased by**  
27 **eight percent (8%) every two years starting on January 1, 2007 until**  
28 **January 1, 2011.]**

1           [“Any downward reclassification of present categories, for tax  
2 purposes, of existing brands of fermented liquor duly registered at the time  
3 of the effectivity of this Act which will reduce the tax imposed herein, or the  
4 payment thereof, shall be prohibited.]

5           “Every brewer or importer of fermented liquor shall, within thirty  
6 (30) days from the effectivity of this Act, and within the first five (5) days of  
7 every month thereafter, submit to the Commissioner a sworn statement of  
8 the volume of sales for each particular brand of fermented liquor sold at  
9 his establishment for the three-month period immediately preceding.

10           “Any brewer or importer who, in violation of this Section, knowingly  
11 misdeclares or misrepresents in his or its sworn statement herein required  
12 any pertinent data or information shall be penalized by a summary  
13 cancellation or withdrawal of his or its permit to engage in business as  
14 brewer or importer of fermented liquor.

15           “Any corporation, association or partnership liable for any of the  
16 acts or omissions in violation of this Section shall be fined treble the  
17 amount of deficiency taxes, surcharges and interest which may be  
18 assessed pursuant to this Section.

19           “Any person, liable for any of the acts or omissions prohibited  
20 under this Section shall be criminally liable and penalized under Section  
21 254 of this Code. Any person who willfully aids or abets in the commission  
22 of any such act or omission shall be criminally liable in the same manner  
23 as the principal.

24           “If the offender is not a citizen of the Philippines, he shall be  
25 deported immediately after serving the sentence, without further  
26 proceedings for deportation.”

27           **SEC. 4. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** – The Secretary of  
28 Finance shall, upon the recommendation of the Commissioner of Internal

1 Revenue, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective  
2 implementation of this Act.

3 **SEC. 5. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules  
4 and regulations or parts thereof which are contrary to or inconsistent with this Act  
5 are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

6 **SEC. 6. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
7 publication in the Official Gazette or in any two newspapers of general  
8 circulation, whichever comes earlier.

9 Approved,