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SENATE

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S. No. 601

INTRODUCED BY HON. MANUEL B. VILLAR JR.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution provides that the State shall protect the life of the mother and the unborn from conception.

It is now established by studies and researches that drinking alcohol during pregnancy causes debilitating physical and mental conditions in the fetus.

Among the ravages of alcohol on the unborn child; are: (a) head and face deformities, such as small skull formation, distorted and flattened face, drooping eyelids and a large interval between the lip and the nose; (b) major organ system malfunctions resulting in heart defects, ear infections, hearing loss, poor eyesight, and bad teeth; (c) central-nervous-system dysfunctions, causing mental retardation and hyperactivity that is not easily controlled by drugs; and (d) arrested growth, both before and after birth.

The result on the infant is now known as Fetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS). Unlike drugs such as barbiturates or opiates, alcohol can attack virtually any of the body's cells.

Yet FAS is entirely preventable. All a mother has to do is to stop imbibing alcoholic drinks during pregnancy. Beer, wine and hard liquor have the same effects.

In some states in the United States, the policy is to require liquor bottles to carry the warning that alcohol intake during pregnancy is hazardous to the life and health of the unborn child. This bill seeks to do the same. Every year millions of affected Filipino children are born who could have been protected from the irreversible effects of FAS.

The cost of the additional warning label, such as could be found in cigarette products is relatively small compared to the danger faced by many Filipino children. Approval of this bill could mean the start of a national campaign to foster this needed consciousness among our Filipino mothers.

For these reasons, the immediate approval of this bill is earnestly urged.



MANUEL B. VILLAR, JR.

THIRTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

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S. No. 601

INTRODUCED BY HON. MANUEL B. VILLAR JR.

AN ACT REQUIRING THAT ALL LIQUOR PRODUCTS CARRY A WARNING LABEL THAT ALCOHOL INTAKE DURING PREGNANCY IS HAZARDOUS TO THE LIFE AND HEALTH OF THE UNBORN CHILD

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

SECTION 1. National Policy - It is hereby declared national policy to protect the life of the unborn child from conception from the harmful physical and me mental effects of drinking alcohol during pregnancy.

SEC. 2. Policy Implementation. - All liquor products, regardless of alcohol content, shall carry a warning that alcohol intake during pregnancy is hazardous to the life and health of the unborn child.

SEC. 3. Any liquor manufacturer and/or distributor who hall violate this Act shall suffer a fine of Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) to Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00); for the second offense, a fine of more than Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00) but not more than Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000.00); for the third offense, a fine of from Twenty Thousand Pesos. (P20,000.00) to Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000,00) and suspension of the license to manufacturer and/or distribute the liquor product; and for the f fourth offense, revocation of the license to manufacture and/or distribute the liquor, plus fine of from Fifty to One Hundred Thousand Pesos.

SEC. 4. The Department of Health (DOH) shall carry out the provisions of this Act by issuing the necessary rules and regulations and monitoring its implementation.

SEC. 4. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect three (3) months from its approval and publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general Circulation on.

Approved,