

13th CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

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SENATE

S. BILL NO. 1346

RECEIVED BY: Al

Introduced by Senator Ralph G. Recto

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to amend Article 77 of RA 7394, otherwise known as "Consumer Act of the Philippines," by requiring the inclusion of fiber content information in the labeling of textile products.

More often than not, garments exported abroad conform to international standards of labeling textile products that require, among others, the disclosure of fiber content. But clothes sold locally are not subject to such labeling standards that Filipino consumers are left with less information when choosing what items to buy. They even have the tendency to base their decision principally on the name of the manufacturer which is not exactly a good barometer for the soundness and price of a product. Worse, a big chunk of locally sold clothing does not carry any label at all.

Rapid changes in the textile industry have produced various fibers and fabrics in the marketplace that choosing the right items becomes a tedious process to a discriminating consumer. It can be downright confusing if one doesn't have all the facts needed to make a good choice. Without the fiber content in the label, a consumer allergic to polyester for instance would not know that he/she is buying an item hazardous to his/her health.

This bill protects the Filipino consumer from mislabeling of fiber content on textile products and from misleading advertising by manufacturers. It upholds the philosophy of "value for money" for the buying individual and the democratic principle of "freedom of choice."

Learning about fabrics and fiber families will help the consumer make better buying decisions. The composition of textile products will generally determine how the product should be used and cared for.

The proposed measure requires that the fiber content label shall:

- (a) Identify the fiber by generic name (the name of the family of fibers with similar chemical composition or origin), and
- (b) Give the percentage by weight of each kind of fiber in the item in amounts of five (5) percent or more, except when fibers have a definite functional significance such as, but not limited to, spandex.

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


RALPH G. RECTO

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S. BILL NO. 1346

RECEIVED BY: [Signature]

Introduced by Senator Ralph G. Recto

**AN ACT
REQUIRING THE INCLUSION OF FIBER CONTENT INFORMATION IN THE
LABELING OF TEXTILE PRODUCTS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC
ACT 7394, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE CONSUMER ACT OF THE PHILIPPINES,
AS AMENDED**

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

1 **SECTION 1.** *Declaration of Policy.* It is hereby declared the policy of
2 the State to protect the interest of the consumer, promote his general
3 welfare and to establish standards of conduct for business and industry. To
4 this end, the State shall therefore, enforce mandatory labeling to enable
5 consumers to obtain accurate information to facilitate sound choice and
6 protect them against hazards to health and safety.

7 **SEC. 2.** *Mandatory Fiber Content Labeling of Textile Products.* Article
8 77 of Republic Act No. 7394, otherwise known as the "Consumer Act of
9 the Philippines," as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows:

10 **"Art. 77.** *Minimum Labeling Requirements for Consumer*
11 *Products.* All consumer products domestically sold whether
12 manufactured locally or imported shall indicate the following in
13 their respective labels of packaging:

14 "(a) its correct and registered trade name or brand name;

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- "(b) its duly registered trademark;
- "(c) its duly registered business name;
- "(d) the address of the manufacturer, importer, repacker of the consumer product in the Philippines;
- "(e) its general make or active ingredients: PROVIDED, THAT IN THE CASE OF TEXTILE FIBER PRODUCTS, IT SHALL BEAR A FIBER CONTENT LABEL WHICH SHALL:
 - (I) IDENTIFY THE FIBER BY GENERIC NAME (THE NAME OF THE FAMILY OF FIBERS WITH SIMILAR CHEMICAL COMPOSITION OR ORIGIN), AND
 - (II) GIVE THE PERCENTAGE BY WEIGHT OF EACH KIND OF FIBER IN THE ITEM IN AMOUNTS OF FIVE (5) PERCENT OR MORE, EXCEPT WHEN FIBERS HAVE A DEFINITE FUNCTIONAL SIGNIFICANCE SUCH AS, BUT NOT LIMITED TO, SPANDEX.
- "(f) the net quality of contents, in terms of weight, measure or numerical count rounded of to at least the nearest tenths in the metric system;
- "(g) country of manufacture, if imported; and
- "(h) if a consumer product is manufactured, refilled or repacked under license from a principal, the label shall so state the fact."
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SEC. 3. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* The Secretary of Department of Trade and Industry, in consultation with the concerned business and industry representatives, government agencies, and civil society organizations shall promulgate the necessary regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

SEC. 4. *Separability Clause.* If any provision of this Act or the application thereof to any person circumstances be held invalid, the remaining provisions of this Act and the application of such provisions to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

SEC. 5. *Effectivity Clause.* This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days from its publication in the *Official Gazette* and in newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,