

SENATE

Senate Bill No. 1169

INTRODUCED BY HON. MANNY VILLAR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill proposes to require all cigarette and cigar manufacturers to determine and print the levels of tar, nicotine and carbon monoxide that could be inhaled in a stick of cigarette or cigar as compared to acceptable levels.

The purpose is to enable smokers or potential smokers to at least know precisely how much nicotine, tar and deadly carbon monoxide could be imbibed in smoking cigars or cigarettes. Such information may provide fair warning on the health risks of smoking as well as provide data on the amount of toxins spread by smokers on so-called secondary smoke.

Approval of this bill is earnestly sought.


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AN ACT REQUIRING ALL CIGARETTE AND CIGAR MANUFACTURERS AND DISTRIBUTORS TO SCIENTIFICALLY DETERMINE AND TRUTHFULLY PRINT, ON EACH BOX OR PACK OF CIGARS OR CIGARETTES THAT THEY MANUFACTURE, DISTRIBUTE OR SELL WITHIN THE COUNTRY, THE LEVELS OF NICOTINE, TAR AND CARBON MONOXIDE THAT COULD BE INHALED IN SMOKING A STICK OF CIGAR OR CIGARETTE, AND PROVIDE PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS THEREOF

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

SECTION 1. Disclosure of Levels of Toxicity. - All cigar and cigarette manufacturers, packaging companies or distributors are required to scientifically determine and truthfully print, on each box or pack of cigars or cigarettes that they distribute or sell, the levels of nicotine, tar and carbon monoxide that could be inhaled in smoking a stick of cigar or cigarette, as compared to acceptable levels.

SEC. 2. Ban on All Non-complying Boxes and Packs. - All distribution outlets or wholesale or retail stores shall be, prohibited from selling, distributing or storing any box or pack of cigars or cigarettes that does not comply with the requirements under this Act.

SEC. 3. Scope. - This Act shall cover all boxes or packs of local or imported cigars and cigarettes produced or packaged for distribution or sale within the territory of the Republic of the Philippines.

SEC. 4. Implementing Agencies. - The lead agency in the implementation of this Act shall be the Department of Health. It shall determine, define and disseminate information regarding measurements, standards and studies following the requirements of this Act. The Department shall also be responsible for monitoring compliance with this Act and in supporting and coordinating with the police agencies in apprehending and prosecuting violators of this Act.

SEC. 5. Penalties. - A fine of Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00) shall be imposed on any manufacturer, packaging entity, distributor, wholesale or retail store or distribution outlet for every count of violation of the provisions of this Act. For this purpose, every box or pack found without the required information or found with false or misleading information shall be considered one count of the violation. Any finished box or pack of cigar or cigarettes found without the required information in any retail or wholesale store or distribution outlet shall constitute prima facie evidence of the violation by the store owner or outlet owner of the provisions of this Act. Provided, That, should the non-complying box or pack of cigars or cigarettes be that of a local or

imported brand registered for sale or distribution within the country, such box or boxes, pack or packs shall also constitute prima facie evidence of the violation by the registered manufacturer, packaging company, or distributor of the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 6. Transitory Provisions. - All concerned manufacturers and packaging companies of cigars and cigarette, shall be allowed a period of one (1) year from the effectivity of this Act to comply with its provisions. All distributors, wholesale and retail stores and distribution outlets of cigars and cigarettes shall be allowed a period of one (1) year and six (6) months from the effectivity of this Act to exhaust its inventory of non-complying boxes and packs of cigars and cigarettes after which period the ban shall take effect.

SEC. 7. Effectivity. - This Act. shall take a feat immediately upon approval hereof.

Approved,