

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

OFFICE OF THE CLERK

10 JUL 21 AIO:37

SENATE
S. No. 1705

RECEIVED BY *[Signature]*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article XIII, Section 12, provides that:

The State shall establish and maintain an effective food and drug regulatory system and undertake appropriate health, manpower development and research, responsive to the country's health needs and problems.

Aspartame is, by far, the most dangerous substance on the market that is added to foods. Aspartame is the technical name for the brand names, NutraSweet®, Equal®, Spoonful®, and Equal-Measure®. Aspartame is made up of three chemicals: aspartic acid, phenylalanine, and methanol.

Aspartame accounts for over 75 percent (75%) of the adverse reactions to food additives reported to the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA). Many of these reactions are very serious including seizures and death as recently disclosed in a February 1994 U.S. Department of Health and Human Services report.

A few of the 90 different documented symptoms listed in the report as being caused by aspartame includes headaches/migraines, dizziness, seizures, nausea, numbness, muscle spasms, weight gain, rashes, depression, fatigue, irritability, tachycardia, insomnia, vision problems, bearing loss, heart palpitations, breathing difficulties, anxiety attacks, slurred speech, loss of taste, tinnitus, vertigo, memory loss, and joint pain.

According to researchers and physicians studying the adverse effects of aspartame, the following chronic illness can be triggered or worsened by ingesting of aspartame: brain tumor, multiple sclerosis, epilepsy, chronic fatigue syndrome, Parkinson's disease, Alzheimer's, mental retardation, lymphoma, birth defects fibromyalgia, and diabetes.

This proposed measure seeks to ban and prohibit the use of “aspartame” on food, beverages and drugs and the sale and distribution, of artificial sweeteners or sugar substitutes such as NutraSweet, Equal, Spoonful, Equal-Measure and other brand names with similar contents.

In view of addressing the hazard brought by these artificial sweeteners to our people's health, immediate passage of this measure is earnestly sought.¹

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

¹ This bill was originally filed during the Thirteenth Congress, Second Regular Session.

10 JUL 21 10:37

SENATE
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1 AN ACT
2 PROHIBITING THE USE OF "ASPARTAME" ON FOOD, BEVERAGES, AND
3 DRUGS AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

6 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the "Aspartame Ban Act."

7 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the policy of the State to establish and maintain
8 an effective food and drug regulatory system and undertake appropriate health manpower
9 development and research, responsive to the country's health needs and problems.

10 SECTION 3. *Prohibition on the Use of "Aspartame".* - It is hereby declared prohibited to
11 use "aspartame" on food, beverages and drugs such as, but not limited to, instant breakfast,
12 cereals, frozen desert, gelatin dessert, yogurt, juice beverages, milk drinks, shake mixes, cocoa
13 mixes, coffee beverage, soft *drinks*, tea beverages, instant teas and coffees, tabletop sweeteners,
14 topping mixes, wine coolers, breath mints, sugar-free chewing gum, multivitamins and
15 pharmaceuticals and supplements.

16 SECTION 4. *Regulatory Power.* - The Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD) is hereby
17 mandated to monitor the use of aspartame on selected food, beverages and drugs and to
18 implement the provisions of this Act.

19 SECTION 5. *Penalties.* -The penalty a fine ranging from One Hundred Thousand Pesos
20 (P100,000.00) to Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P500,000.00) shall be imposed upon any
21 individual or officers of a manufacturing or distributing corporation or company who shall
22 violate any of the provisions of this Act.

1 SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part hereof is held invalid or
2 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
3 valid and subsisting.

4 SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
5 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent
6 with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

7 SECTION 8. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
8 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,