

SENATE

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S.B. NO. 196

RECEIVED BY: 

INTRODUCED BY: SENATOR EMMANUEL D. PACQUIAO

AN ACT
MANDATING ALL FOOD SERVICE ESTABLISHMENTS TO PROVIDE FREE
SAFE AND CLEAN POTABLE SERVICE WATER FOR THEIR CUSTOMERS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It is the policy of the State to protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them. Pursuant to this, the State is mandated to adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at an affordable cost.

It has been observed that some food establishments and eateries in the country refuse to serve clean and safe potable water to customers despite the recognition that access to water and sanitation is a basic human right. With this, customers are compelled to purchase bottled waters from said establishments.

This bill seeks to mandate all public and private establishments to provide free clean drinking water for its patrons. Not only will the policy fulfill the mandate of the State to make clean water accessible but it will also greatly curb the use of single-use plastic bottles which has been one of the primary contributors in plastic pollution and environmental damage.

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

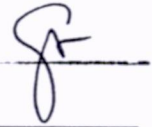


EMMANUEL D. PACQUIAO

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CUSTOMERS

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

1 **SECTION 1. Short Title.** This Act shall be known as the “Free Potable Water Act of 2019.”

2 **SEC. 2. Definition of Terms.** For purposes of this Act, the following shall be the definition
3 of terms:

4 (a) **Potable Water** refers to a safe and clean drinking water for human consumption from
5 public or private water supply system in accordance with Presidential Decree (P.D.
6 856) or the Sanitation Code of the Philippines;

7
8 (b) **Food Establishments** refer to business entity engaged in providing refreshment or
9 food for the general public either for free or with a monetary consideration operating
10 independently or as a part of another establishment such as hotels, clubhouses, and
11 others. It includes restaurants, bars, cafes, coffee shops, food stands, catering services,
12 and others of similar import.
13

14 **SEC. 3. Implementation.** All food establishments in areas with potable water supply system
15 are hereby mandated to provide free safe and clean drinking water to its customers.

16 **SEC. 4. Penalty.** Establishments which will refuse to serve free drinking water upon request
17 by customers or patrons shall be penalized with a fine of Five Thousand Pesos (Php5,000) for
18 the first offense; Fifteen Thousand Pesos (Php 15,000) for the second offense; and Fifty
19 Thousand Pesos (Php 50,000) for the third offense.

1 **SEC. 5. *Effectivity.*** This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its publication in
2 the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

3

4 *Approved,*