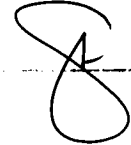


24 JAN -8 A11 :50

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*Second Regular Session* )

RECEIVED BY \_\_\_\_\_



**SENATE**  
S.B. No. 2518

---

Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

---

**AN ACT**  
**PROBIHITING PRODUCERS AND MANUFACTURERS OF BABY FOOD FROM**  
**ADDING SUGAR ON THEIR PRODUCTS,**  
**AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Article XIII, Section 12 of the 1987 Constitution 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.*"

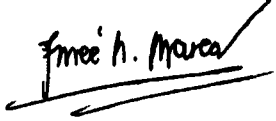

The World Health Organization (WHO) is seeking a ban on added sugars in baby foods for children aging from 0 to 36 months old due to its detrimental impact on the child's oral health. In addition, added sugar on baby foods put children at risk of developing a preference for sweet foods, which may lead to overweight and obesity-related diseases in adulthood.

In a 2022 survey of the Department of Science and Technology's Food and Nutrition Research Institute, around 27 million Filipinos are overweight and obese. For the past two decades, overweight and obesity among adults have almost doubled from 20.2% in 1998 to 36.6% in 2019. Similarly, the prevalence rates of overweight and obesity among adolescents have more than doubled from 4.9% in 2003 to 11.6% in 2018.

A recent study by the University of the Philippines found that young Filipinos are at a greater risk of obesity, due to the consumption of food that is energy-dense and nutrient-poor, exacerbated by growing urbanization and increased incomes.

The proposed bill seeks to ensure good nutrition, optimal child growth and development, and better health outcomes for children. To this end, the government, and agencies concerned shall implement a ban on added sugar in baby food. The producers/manufacturers shall take responsibility to remove added sugar and look for healthier alternatives in their baby food products.

Given the abovementioned circumstances, the immediate passage of this bill is necessary.

  
**IMEE R. MARCOS** 

24 JAN -8 A11 :50

NINETEENTH CONGRESS OF THE )  
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES )  
*Second Regular Session* )

RECEIVED BY \_\_\_\_\_



**SENATE**  
S.B. No. 2518

---

Introduced by **SENATOR IMEE R. MARCOS**

---

**AN ACT**  
**PROBIHITING PRODUCERS AND MANUFACTURERS OF BABY FOOD FROM**  
**ADDING SUGAR ON THEIR PRODUCTS,**  
**AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

1 SECTION 1: *Title.* – This Act shall be known as “No-Added Sugar on Baby Foods Act”

2 SEC 2. *Definition of Terms.* For purposes of this Act the following terms shall mean:

3 a) *Baby Food* – refers to all consumed food other than breastmilk that is made  
4 specifically for older infants and young children aged beyond six (6) months  
5 to thirty-six (36) months old.

6 b) *Older infant* - refers to a person aged 6 – 12 months old.

7 c) *Producer/Manufacturer* – one who produces imports, trades in, or distributes  
8 baby food.

9 d) *Regulatory requirements* – the provisions of all applicable laws, regulations,  
10 executive orders, and other enactments related to foods quality and safety,  
11 purity, nutritional composition, and other aspects of food regulation or  
12 control.

13 e) *Young children* – refers to a person aged 12 – 36 months old.  
14

15 SEC. 3. *Ban On Added Sugar in Baby Food.* No person or entity shall  
16 manufacture, sell, import, or distribute in commerce any baby food containing added  
17 sugar.

1           The imposition of no-added sugar baby food shall not prejudice the quality and  
2 safety of their food products for children. All baby food shall be labeled in accordance  
3 with the requirements prescribed by the FDA.

4           SEC. 4.       *Public Information.* – The benefits and rationale of the use of no  
5 added sugar baby food shall be adequately disseminated and promoted through  
6 organized, systematic, and nationwide information campaign which shall involve major  
7 sectors of society to be spearheaded by the DOH, in cooperation and coordination with  
8 the LGUs and other agencies concerned.

9           SEC. 5.       *Penalties for Violation.* – Whenever it is found that a baby food  
10 contains added sugar, the DOH shall, after due notice and hearing, make the  
11 appropriate order for its recall, prohibition, or seizure from public sale or distribution.  
12 Any person natural or juridical, who shall violate Section 3 of this Act shall be subject  
13 to a fine not less than Three Hundred Thousand Pesos (P300,000.00) but not more  
14 than Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P500,000.00) or by imprisonment of not less than  
15 one (1) year but not more than five (5) years or both, upon the discretion of the court.  
16 In case the offender is a juridical person, the President, Secretary, Treasurer, and such  
17 other officers or persons responsible for the offense, shall be liable for the penalty of  
18 imprisonment. If the seller, distributor or manufacturer of the injurious baby containing  
19 added sugar is a foreigner, he shall be deported after service of sentence and payment  
20 of fine without further deportation proceedings.

21           SEC. 6.       *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the implementation of  
22 this Act shall initially be charged to the appropriations of the agencies concerned as  
23 may be appropriated, under the current General Appropriations Act. Thereafter, such  
24 amount as may be necessary for its implementation shall be included in the annual  
25 General Appropriations Act.

26           SEC. 7.       *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty days (60) days  
27 from the effectivity of this Act, the DOH shall promulgate the necessary rules and  
28 regulations for the effective implementation of this Act: *Provided*, that the DOH may  
29 call upon any agency to provide information or assistance in the drafting of the rules  
30 and regulations.

31           SEC. 8.       *Separability Clause.* – If any portion of this Act is declared  
32 unconstitutional or invalid, all other provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid.

33           SEC. 9.       *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and  
34 regulations or parts thereof, which are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed,  
35 amended or modified accordingly.

36           SEC. 10.      *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect within fifteen (15)  
37 days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) national newspaper of  
38 general circulation, whichever is earlier.

*Approved,*