

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

7 NOV 14 P 1:10

SENATE

RECEIVED BY: 

Senate Bill No. 1873

INTRODUCED BY SEN. MANNY VILLAR

EXPLANATORY NOTE

There are numerous health impacts and risks associated with tattooing and piercing, therefore, they have to be regulated by the government.

The origin and chemical structure of coloring agents used for tattooing are hardly known. Pigments are mainly industrial organic pigments with high microbiological and impurities and a load of metals such as cobalt and mercury.

The observed health effects, which are potentially associated with tattooing and piercing, include


- Viral infections such as hepatitis, AIDS and cutaneous infections;
- Bacterial infections such as impetigo, toxic shock syndrome, tetanus, chancroid, tuberculosis and leprosy;
- Fungal infections such as sporotrichosis and zygomycosis;
- Allergic reactions such as cutaneous irritation and urticaria;
- Granulomatous/lichenoid reactions;
- Pseudo-lymphomas;
- Lymphadenopathy;
- Sarcoidosis;
- Malignant lesions such as melanoma and skin cancer;
- Behavioral changes
- Other skin diseases such as psoriasis, photosensitization, phototoxicity and photogenotoxicity

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


MANNY VILLAR

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

7 NOV 14 PT 30

RECEIVED BY: 

SENATE

Senate Bill No. **1873**

INTRODUCED BY SEN. MANNY VILLAR

**AN ACT
PUNISHING THE ACT OF UNDERAGE TATTOOING AND BODY PIERCING**

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

SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy.- The State recognizes the vital role of the youth in nation-building and shall promote and protect their physical, moral, spiritual, intellectual and social well-being.

SECTION 2. Definition of terms.- As used herein, the following shall mean:

a) "Body piercing" means the creation of an opening in the body, excluding the ear, for the purpose of inserting jewelry or other decoration.

e) "Tattoo" means to fix an indelible mark or figure upon the body by inserting a pigment under the skin or by producing scars.

b) "Consent of a minor's parent or legal guardian" means the presence of a parent or legal guardian during the performance of body piercing or tattooing upon the minor after the parent or legal guardian has provided reasonable proof of personal identity and familial relationship.

c) "Minor" means a person younger than 18 years of age.

d) "Personal identification" means valid driver's license or other picture identification card that expressly states that the person is 18 years of age or older.

SECTION 3. A person is guilty of unlawful body piercing or tattooing of a minor if he performs or offers to perform a body piercing or tattooing:

- a. upon a minor;
- b. without receiving the consent of the minor's parent or legal guardian; and

c. for remuneration or in the course of a business or profession.

SECTION 4. Exception.- A person is not guilty if the person:

- a) had no actual knowledge of the minor's age; and
- b) reviewed, recorded, and has maintained a personal identification for the minor prior to performing an unlawful body piercing or unlawful tattooing.

SECTION 5. Person Liable-.

a) The person who performed or offered to perform a body piercing or tattooing to the minor; and

b) The owner or operator of a business in which a violation occurs.

SECTION 6. Penalty.-Any person guilty of violating this Act shall suffer the penalty of two (2) years to six (6) years imprisonment and a fine of not less than P20,000.00.

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

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

Approved.