

Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City

**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**  
*First Regular Session*

House Bill No. 4059



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Introduced by **HON. ROZZANO RUFINO B. BIAZON**

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**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

This bill seeks to mandate the labelling of alcoholic beverages. It proposes to declare as unlawful the manufacture, importation, or bottle for sale or distribution in the Philippines any alcoholic beverage unless the container of such beverage bears a government warning on the harmful effects of an alcoholic beverage.

The health of its people is, and should always be, the primordial concern of any State. It is the responsibility of any government to ensure that its citizens are protected from all substances that are harmful to their health. This is the reason why drugs, cigarettes and other toxic substances have labels on their harmful effects to people.

Alcoholic beverages however seem to be exempted from such labels despite their harmful effects to the health of people. According to the World Health Organization:

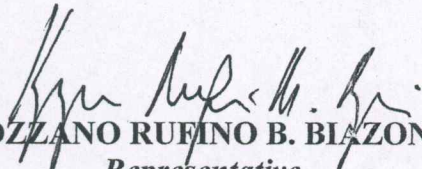
- Worldwide, 3 million deaths every year result from harmful use of alcohol, this represent 5.3 % of all deaths.
- The harmful use of alcohol is a causal factor in more than 200 disease and injury conditions.
- Overall 5.1 % of the global burden of disease and injury is attributable to alcohol, as measured in disability-adjusted life years (DALYs).
- Alcohol consumption causes death and disability relatively early in life. In the age group 20–39 years approximately 13.5 % of the total deaths are alcohol-attributable.
- There is a causal relationship between harmful use of alcohol and a range of mental and behavioral disorders, other noncommunicable conditions as well as injuries.
- The latest causal relationships have been established between harmful drinking and incidence of infectious diseases such as tuberculosis as well as the course of HIV/AIDS.



- Beyond health consequences, the harmful use of alcohol brings significant social and economic losses to individuals and society at large.

It is high time that alcoholic beverages contain government warning on their harmful effects to the health of people. More than any other resource, the human resources of a country remains to be the most valuable.

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

  
**ROZZANO RUFINO B. BLAZON**  
*Representative*  
Lone District, Muntinlupa City



Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
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**EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS**

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House Bill No. **4059**

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Introduced by **HON. ROZZANO RUFINO B. BIAZON**

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**AN ACT**  
**MANDATING THE LABELLING OF ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES**  
**AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

**SECTION 1. Declaration of Policy.** – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to ensure, protect and promote the health and general well-being of its citizens. The people should be informed of health hazards that may result from the consumption or abuse of certain products.

Towards this end, the provision of warning or other information with respect to any relationship between the consumption or abuse of alcoholic beverages and health in such products must be pursued.

**Sec. 2. Definition of Terms.** – As used in this Act:

- a. “Alcoholic beverage” includes any beverage in liquid form which contains not less than one-half of one percent of alcohol by volume and is intended for human consumption. This shall include mixed alcoholic beverages such as cocktails and such other drinks containing a mixture of alcoholic beverages;
- b. “Bottle” means to fill a container with an alcoholic beverage and to seal such;
- c. “Container” means the innermost sealed container irrespective of the material from which made, in which an alcoholic beverage is placed by the bottler and in which such beverage is offered for sale to members of the general public;
- d. “Health” includes, but is not limited to, the prevention of accidents;
- e. “Person” means an individual, partnership, joint stock company, business trust, association, corporation, or any other business or legal entity, including a receiver, trustee, or



liquidating agent, and also includes any State, any State agency, or any officer or employee thereof; and

f. "Sale" and "distribution" include sampling or any other distribution not for sale.

Sec. 3. *Labelling of Alcoholic Beverages.* – After one (1) year upon the effectivity of this Act, it shall be unlawful for any person to manufacture, import, or bottle for sale or distribution in the Philippines any alcoholic beverage unless the container of such beverage bears the following statement:

"GOVERNMENT WARNING: (1) Women should not drink alcoholic beverages during pregnancy because of the risk of birth defects. (2) Consumption of alcoholic beverages impairs your ability to drive a car or operate machinery, and may cause health problems."

The provisions of this section shall not apply with respect to alcoholic beverages that are manufactured, imported, bottled, or labeled for export from the Philippines, or for delivery to a vessel or aircraft, as supplies, for consumption beyond the jurisdiction of the internal revenue laws of the Philippines.

Sec. 4. *Conspicuous and Prominent Location of Statement on Container.* – The statement required by the preceding section shall be located in a conspicuous and prominent place on the container of such beverage, as determined by the Secretary of Health, shall be in type of a size determined by the Secretary of Health, and shall appear on a contrasting background. The Secretary of Health shall make such determinations within sixty (60) days upon the effectivity of this Act.

Sec. 5. *Labelling of Menu.* – After one (1) year upon the effectivity of this Act, business establishments who offer mixed alcoholic beverages in their menu shall be mandated to place below the list of such alcoholic beverages the same government warning as prescribed under the preceding section.

Sec. 6. *Penalties.* – Any person who violates the provisions of this Act shall be penalized with a fine of One Million Pesos (PhP1,000,000.00) for the first offense, Two Million Pesos (PhP2,000,000.00) for the second offense and Three Million Pesos (PhP3,000,000.00) and a revocation of license on the third offense.

Sec. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Secretary of Health shall, in coordination with the Secretary of Trade and Industry, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

Sec. 8. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act shall be deemed unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in force and effect.

Sec. 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All Acts, Presidential Decrees, Executive Orders and Administrative Orders, Rules and Regulations and other such issuances or parts thereof which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.



Sec. 10. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

*Approved,*