

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
H.B. No. 2921

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES	
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Introduced by Representative H. Harry L. Roque Jr.

AN ACT
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9211, OR THE TOBACCO REGULATION ACT
OF 2003, SECTION 13, ON WARNINGS ON CIGARETTE PACKAGES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 2, Section 16, provides that:

The State shall protect and advance the right of the people to a balanced and healthful ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature.

Health warning labels on cigarette packaging promote health awareness to smokers. It is the objective of the bill to take these warnings further by also instilling to the user environmental awareness by adding another label in cigarette packages informing the consumer to dispose the cigarette litter properly, like any other consumer product packaging like soda cans and plastic wrappers.¹



H. HARRY L. ROQUE JR.

¹ This bill was originally filed during the Fourteenth Congress, First Regular Session, and subsequently refiled in the Sixteenth Congress, Third Regular Session by Miriam Defensor-Santiago.

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

1 SECTION 1. Section 13 of the Tobacco Regulation Act of 2003 is hereby further
2 amended to read as follows:

3 SECTION 13. Warnings on Cigarette Packages. – Under this Act:

4 a. All packages in which tobacco products are provided to consumers
5 withdrawn from the manufacturing facility of all manufacturers or imported into
6 the Philippines intended for sale to the market, starting 1 January 2004, shall be
7 printed, in either English or Filipino, on a rotating basis or separately and
8 simultaneously the following health warnings:

9 “GOVERNMENT WARNING: Cigarette Smoking is Dangerous
10 to Your Health;”

11 “GOVERNMENT WARNING: Cigarettes are Addictive;”

1 "GOVERNMENT WARNING: Tobacco Smoke Can Harm Your
2 Children;" or

3 "GOVERNMENT WARNING: Smoking Kills."

4 b. Upon effectivity of this Act until 30 June 2006, the health
5 warning shall be located on one side panel of every tobacco product
6 package and occupy not less than fifty percent (50%) of such side panel
7 including any border or frame.

8 c. Beginning 1 July 2006, the health warning shall be located on
9 the bottom portion of one (1) front panel of every tobacco product package
10 and occupy not less than thirty percent (30%) of such front panel including
11 any border or frame. The text of the warning shall appear in clearly legible
12 type in black text on a white background with a black border and in contrast
13 by typography, layout or color to the other printed matters on the package.
14 The health warning shall occupy a total area of not less than fifty percent
15 (50%) of the total warning frame.

16 d. The warnings shall be rotated periodically, or separately and
17 simultaneously printed, so that within any twenty-four (24) month period,
18 the four (4) variations of the warnings shall appear with proportionate
19 frequency.

20 e. The warning shall not be hidden or obscured by other printed
21 information or images, or printed in a location where tax or fiscal stamps

are likely to be applied to the package or placed in a location where it will be damaged when the package is opened. If the warning to be printed on the package is likely to be obscured or obliterated by a wrapper on the package, the warning must be printed on both the wrapper and the package.

f. In addition to the health warning, all packages of tobacco products that are provided to consumers shall contain, on one side panel, the following statement in a clear, legible and conspicuous manner: "NO SALE TO MINORS" or "NOT FOR SALE TO MINORS." The statement shall occupy an area of not less than ten percent (10%) of such side panel and shall appear in contrast by color, typography or layout with all the other printed material on the side panel.

g. **IN ADDITION TO THE HEALTH WARNING AND THE MESSAGE REQUIRED IN PRECEDING PARAGRAPH, ALL PACKAGES OF TOBACCO PRODUCTS THAT ARE PROVIDED TO CONSUMERS SHALL CONTAIN, ON THE SIDE PANEL OPPOSITE OF THAT WHICH CONTAINS THE MESSAGE REQUIRED IN THE PRECEDING PARAGRAPH, THE FOLLOWING STATEMENT IN A CLEAR, LEGIBLE AND CONSPICUOUS MANNER: "PLEASE DISPOSE OF ALL CIGARETTE WASTE PROPERLY. DO NOT LITTER." THE**

1 **STATEMENT SHALL OCCUPY AN AREA AND APPEAR AS THE**
2 **MESSAGE IN THE PRECEDING PARAGRAPH.**

3 h. No other printed warnings, except the health warning and the
4 **MESSAGES** required in this Section, **PARAGRAPHS F. AND G.** shall
5 be placed on cigarette packages.

6 SECTION 2. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, and issuances, or
7 portions thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby
8 repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

9 SECTION 3. *Effectivity Clause.*—This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after
10 its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,