

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

23 JAN 26 AM 11:50

**SENATE**  
**S. No. 1785**

RECEIVED BY: 

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Introduced by Senator Christopher Lawrence "Bong" T. Go

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**AN ACT**  
**REQUIRING THE USE OF STANDARDIZED DATE LABELS ON CONSUMER**  
**PRODUCTS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7394**  
**OTHERWISE KNOWN AS THE "CONSUMER ACT OF THE PHILIPPINES"**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Republic Act No. 7394 or the Consumer Act of the Philippines provides that it is the policy of the State to protect the interest of the consumer, promote general welfare and to establish standards of conduct for business and industry. The objectives of this Act are all focused on the welfare, protection and rights of all the consumer in the Philippines.

Most of the food and drug products that Filipinos consume are not packaged with standard labels. The existing measures are not sufficient to provide a uniform or standard format on how food labels should be presented on the packaging. Hence, it is therefore appropriate to distinctly provide when the product was manufactured, when it becomes unsafe to consume, and when it is at peak quality.

This proposed measure seeks to provide a standard printed display with the use of the following phrases on the consumer and drug products: "manufacturing date," "expiration date," and whenever applicable, the "best before date." Likewise, the bill disallows the use of other phrases such as "use-by," "consumer before," and "best if used by."

The bill also provides that the text of the date must be printed in single easy-to-read type style using upper and lower-case letters in the standard form. The text of the date must be located in a conspicuous place on the packaging of the product and printed clearly and legibly on the label in the following order: month, day and year. To avoid confusion, the day and the year must be written in figures while the month must be written in words.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Bong T. Go', written over the printed name.

**SENATOR CHRISTOPHER LAWRENCE "BONG" T. GO**



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

1 Section 1. This Act shall be known as the "Standardization of Date Labels Act of 2023."

2 Sec. 2. Article 76 of Republic Act No. 7394, otherwise known as the "*Consumer Act of*  
3 *the Philippines*" is hereby amended to read as follows:

4 "Art 76. ***Prohibited Act on Labeling and Packaging*** - It shall be unlawful  
5 for any person, either as principal or agent, engaged in the **SALE,**  
6 **DISTRIBUTION, MANUFACTURER** labeling or packaging of any consumer  
7 product, to display, **SELL** or distribute or to cause to be displayed, **SOLD** or  
8 distributed in commerce any consumer product whose package or label does  
9 not conform to the provisions of this chapter.

10 **ALL CONSUMER PRODUCTS THAT DO NOT COMPLY WITH THE DATE**  
11 **LABEL REQUIREMENTS AS PROVIDED IN THIS ACT SHALL NOT BE**  
12 **SOLD OR DISTRIBUTED IN THE MARKET AFTER JANUARY 1, 2024.**

13 The prohibition in this chapter shall not apply to persons engaged in the  
14 business of wholesale or retail distributors of consumer products **OR**

1 The prohibition in this chapter shall not apply to persons engaged in the  
2 business of wholesale or retail distributors of consumer products **OR**  
3 **CONSUMER PRODUCTS MANUFACTURED OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY**  
4 **AND DIRECTLY SHIPPED FROM THE MANUFACTURER TO CONSUMER**  
5 **BY MAIL OR OTHER DELIVERY SERVICE** except to the extent that such  
6 persons:

7 (1) are engaged in the packaging or labeling of such

8 (2) prescribe or specify by any means the manner in which such  
9 products are packaged or labeled; or

10 (3) having knowledge, refuse to disclose the source of the mislabeled  
11 or mispackaged products."

12 Sec. 3. Article 77 of the same Act is hereby amended by adding a new paragraph to  
13 be denominated a paragraph (i) to read as follows:

14 "Art. 77. *Minimum Labeling Requirements for Consumer Products.* —  
15 All consumer products domestically sold whether manufactured locally or  
16 imported shall indicate the following in their respective labels of packaging:

17 a) xxx

18 b) "xxx

19 g) country of manufacture, if imported; [and]

20 h) If a consumer product is manufactured, refilled or repacked under license  
21 from a principal, the label shall so State the fact; **AND**

22 **"I) ITS "MANUFACTURING DATE," "EXPIRATION DATE", AND IF**  
23 **APPLICABLE, THE "BEST BEFORE DATE". THE UNIFORM DATE LABEL**  
24 **MUST BE PRINTED CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY ON THE LABEL IN THE**  
25 **FOLLOWING ORDER: MONTH, DAY AND YEAR. THE DAY AND THE**  
26 **YEAR MUST BE WRITTEN IN FIGURES WHILE THE MONTH MUST BE**  
27 **WRITTEN IN WORDS. THE TEXT MUST BE SINGLE EASY-TO-READ**  
28 **TYPE STYLE USING UPPER- AND LOWER-CASE LETTERS IN THE**  
29 **STANDARD FORM. THE USE OF "USE-BY," "CONSUME BEFORE," "BEST**

1 **IF USED BY" AND OTHER SIMILAR PHRASES MUST NOT BE USED AS**  
2 **DATE LABELS ON THE PACKAGING OF CONSUMER PRODUCTS.**

3  
4 **FOR PURPOSES OF THIS ACT, "MANUFACTURING DATE" REFERS TO**  
5 **THE DATE WHEN THE PRODUCT WAS PRODUCED OR MADE BY THE**  
6 **MANUFACTURER; "BEST BEFORE DATE" REFERS TO THE DATE WHEN**  
7 **THE QUALITY OF THE PRODUCT BEGINS TO DETERIORATE, BUT**  
8 **STILL ACCEPTABLE FOR CONSUMPTION BEFORE THE EXPIRATION**  
9 **DATE; AND "EXPIRATION DATE" REFERS TO THE DATE STATED ON**  
10 **THE LABEL OF FOOD, DRUG, COSMETIC, OR SIMILAR CONSUMER**  
11 **PRODUCT AFTER THE SAFETY, EFFICACY, QUALITY OR POTENCY**  
12 **MUST HAVE RUN ITS COURSE."**

13 "The following may be required by the concerned department in accordance  
14 with the rules and regulations they will promulgate under authority of this  
15 Act:

16 a) xxx

17 xxx

18 e) xxx

19 Sec 4. Article 84 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

20 "SEC. 84. ***Additional Labeling Requirement for Food.*** — The following  
21 additional labeling requirements shall be imposed by the concerned  
22 department for food:

23 **"a) MANUFACTURING DATE, EXPIRATION DATE, AND WHENEVER**  
24 **APPLICABLE, THE BEST BEFORE DATE;**

25 "xxx

26 "e) xxx."

27 Sec. 5. Article 86 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

28 "Art. 86. Labeling of Drugs. — The Generics Act shall apply in the labeling of  
29 drugs. **THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION SHALL ENSURE THAT**

1 ALL DRUGS MANUFACTURED AND DISTRIBUTED LOCALLY SHALL  
2 HAVE "MANUFACTURING DATE," AND "EXPIRATION DATE" IN  
3 THEIR LABELS. THE UNIFORM DATE LABELS REQUIRED MUST BE  
4 PRINTED CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY ON THE LABEL IN THE FOLLOWING  
5 ORDER: MONTH, DAY AND YEAR. THE DAY AND THE YEAR MUST BE  
6 WRITTEN IN FIGURES WHILE THE MONTH MUST BE WRITTEN IN  
7 WORDS. THE TEXT MUST BE SINGLE EASY-TO-READ TYPE STYLE  
8 USING UPPER- AND LOWER-CASE LETTERS IN THE STANDARD  
9 FORM.

10

11 FOR PURPOSES OF THIS ACT, "MANUFACTURING DATE" REFERS TO  
12 THE DATE WHEN THE PRODUCT WAS PRODUCED OR MADE BY THE  
13 MANUFACTURER; AND "EXPIRATION DATE" REFERS TO THE DATE  
14 STATED ON THE LABEL OF FOOD, DRUG, COSMETIC, OR SIMILAR  
15 CONSUMER PRODUCT AFTER THE SAFETY, EFFICACY, QUALITY OR  
16 POTENCY MUST HAVE RUN ITS COURSE."

17 FOR PRODUCTS RECONSTITUTED PRIOR TO USE AND THOSE  
18 WHICH CAN BE ADMINISTERED MULTIPLE TIMES, THE LABEL SHALL  
19 INCLUDE THE PERIOD OF GUARANTEED SAFETY, EFFICACY, AND  
20 QUALITY OF THE RECONSTITUTED PREPARATION AFTER FIRST  
21 OPENING AT GIVEN STORAGE CONDITIONS."

22 Sec. 6. Article 87 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows:

23 "Art. 87. *Additional Labeling Requirements for Cosmetics*- — The following  
24 additional requirements may be required for cosmetics:

25 "a) **MANUFACTURING DATE AND** expiry or expiration date;

26 b) xxx

27 c) xxx,"

28 Sec. 7. Article 95 of the same Act is hereby amended to read as follows;

29 "Art. 95. *Penalties*. —

30 a) xxx

1       XXX

2       **"C) ANY MANUFACTURER OR DISTRIBUTOR WHO VIOLATES THE**  
3       **PROVISIONS OF ARTICLE 76, PARAGRAPH I OF ARTICLE 77,**  
4       **PARAGRAPH A OF ARTICLE 84, ARTICLE 86 AND PARAGRAPH A OF**  
5       **ARTICLE 87 OF THIS ACT SHALL BE PUNISHED WITH A FINE OF NOT**  
6       **LESS THAN TWENTY THOUSAND PESOS (P20,000.00) BUT NOT**  
7       **MORE THAN FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (P50,000.00) OR**  
8       **IMPRISONMENT OF NOT LESS THAN THREE (3) MONTH BUT NOT**  
9       **MORE THAN TWO (2) YEARS, OR BOTH SUCH FINE AND**  
10       **IMPRISONMENT, AT THE DISCRETION OF THE PROPER COURT.**

11       **"IF THE OFFENDER IS AN ALIEN, THE OFFENDER SHALL BE**  
12       **DEPORTED AFTER SERVICE OF SENTENCE AND PAYMENT OF FINE**  
13       **WITHOUT DEPORTATION PROCEEDINGS.**

14       **"IF THE VIOLATION IS COMMITTED BY A JURIDICAL PERSON, THE**  
15       **BOARD OF DIRECTORS, OFFICERS AND ALL PERSONS DIRECTLY**  
16       **RESPONSIBLE FOR THE VIOLATION SHALL SUFFER THE PENALTY**  
17       **IMPOSED UNDER THIS SECTION."**

18       Sec. 8. Within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Secretary of  
19       Trade and Industry, in coordination with the Secretary of Health, and the Director  
20       General of the Food and Drug Administration, shall issue the necessary rules and  
21       regulations for the effective implementation of the provisions of this Act,

22       Sec. 9. If for any reason any part or provision of this Act is declared invalid or  
23       unconstitutional, the remaining parts or provisions not affected thereby shall remain  
24       in full force and effect.

25       Sec. 10. All laws, executive orders, issuances, decrees, rules and regulations  
26       inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are deemed amended,  
27       modified or repealed accordingly,

- 1 Sec. 11. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official
- 2 Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

*Approved,*