

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **9319**



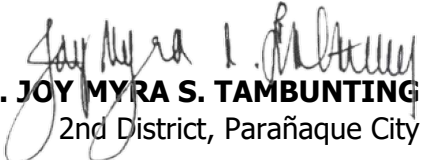
Introduced by **HON. JOY MYRA S. TAMBUNTING**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Unbeknownst to a regular consumer, many of the household items made ready and available over the counter for use in the upkeep of the house contain chemicals that may cause serious injury and health issues. This is mainly because the manufacturers of these products only focus on the advertising of their beneficial uses to boost sales and neglecting the equally important information on the proper handling and storing of these products.

This bill seeks to require manufacturers precautionary labelling on household items which may contain substances that are considered toxic, corrosive, harmful irritants, strong sensitizers or flammable through a standard of signage and symbols that would alert the consumer of the potential hazards of the products. It shall also be required by this bill that the label should likewise provide instructions on the first aid steps to take in case of accidents brought about by the improper handling and storage of the product.

On behalf of the people of Parañaque City's Second District, and for the common good of the Filipino people, the approval of the said measure is earnestly sought.


REP. JOY MYRA S. TAMBUNTING
2nd District, Parañaque City

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HOUSE BILL NO. **9319**

Introduced by **HON. JOY MYRA S. TAMBUNTING**

AN ACT
REQUIRING THE MANDATORY LABELLING OF HOUSEHOLD PRODUCTS CONTAINING
HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “Hazardous Household Substances Labelling Act”.

Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to protect the health and safety of its citizens and promote a regulatory framework that would efficiently manage their exposure to health and safety hazards in regular activities and items they may come into contact with.

Sec. 3. Definition of Terms. – For purposes of this Act, the following terms are defined as follows:

- a. Toxic Product. – A toxic product is one where its use may result in personal injury or illness to humans when inhaled, swallowed or absorbed through the skin.
- b. Corrosive Product. – A product is corrosive when it destroys living tissue such as skin or eyes through contact.
- c. Irritant Product. – A product is irritant when not being corrosive, it causes substantial injury to the part of the body it comes in immediate, prolonged or regular contact with.
- d. Strong Sensitizer Product. – A product is a strong sensitizer if it has been considered by the appropriate government agency with a significant potential to cause hypersensitivity.
- e. Flammable Product. – A product is flammable when it ignites easily with a flame or material with flash point below an arbitrary temperature limit of 50°C.
- f. Household Products. – Household products are those products which, during reasonably foreseeable purchase, storage, or use, may be brought into or around a place where people live.

Sec. 4. Hazard Labelling. – Any household product which may be scientifically found or categorized to contain substances that are toxic, corrosive, irritant, strong sensitizer or flammable shall be prominently labeled as such in accordance with internationally recognized signs and

symbols as may be prescribed by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA). The label shall prominently display in conspicuous and legible type the following information:

- a. The name and business address of the manufacturer, packer, distributor, or seller;
- b. The common or usual or chemical name of each hazardous ingredient;
- c. The signal word "Danger" for products that are corrosive, extremely flammable, or highly toxic;
- d. The signal word "Caution" or "Warning" for all other hazardous products;
- e. An affirmative statement of the principal hazard or hazards that the product presents, for example, "Flammable", "Harmful if Swallowed", "Causes Burns", "Vapor Harmful", etc.;
- f. Precautionary statements telling users what they must do or what actions they must avoid to protect themselves;
- g. Where it is appropriate, instructions for first aid treatment to perform in the event that the product injures someone;
- h. The word "Poison" for a product that is highly toxic, in addition to the signal word "Danger";
- i. If a product requires special care in handling or storage, instructions for consumers to follow to protect themselves; and
- j. The statement "Keep out of the reach of children". If a hazardous product such as a plant does not have a package, it still must have a hang tag that contains the required precautionary information. That information must also be printed in any literature that accompanies the product and that contains instructions for use.

Sec. 5. Penalty. – Any manufacturer, packer, distributor or seller who fails to comply with requirements set forth shall be liable to pay the penalty of ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P100,000.00) for every information it failed to display as prescribed under Section 4 of this Act. Further, any household product or products found in violation of this Act shall be confiscated and disposed appropriately with cost against the liable manufacturer, packer, distributor or seller.

Sec. 6. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – The Food and Drug Administration shall within thirty (30) from the approval of this Act, promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for its proper implementation.

Sec. 7. Repealing Clause. – All laws, decrees, executive orders, administrative orders or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly

Sec. 8. Separability Clause. – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, other provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

Sec. 9. Effectivity Clause. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,