TWENTIETH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES First Regular Session

25 JUL 15 P1:50

SENATE

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S.B. No. <u>634</u>

Introduced by SEN. WIN GATCHALIAN

AN ACT GRANTING ENHANCED PROTECTION TO CONSUMERS, AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 7394, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE CONSUMER ACT OF THE PHILIPPINES"

EXPLANATORY NOTE

In view of rapid technological advancements that continuously change the means and mechanisms of exchanging products and services, there is an even greater need for an effective consumer legislation to help put consumers on equal footing with merchants, businesses, and industries. This is especially true for consumers who have little to no bargaining power in the marketplace in view of their economic status or educational attainment.

In order to protect all consumers, especially those who are unaware of their rights as consumers and are uninformed of illegal, unfair, or fraudulent schemes employed by unscrupulous merchants, it is imperative to develop and maintain a strong consumer protection policy with due consideration of the economic and social circumstances of consumers, their particular needs, and the costs and corresponding benefits of consumer protection measures.

Consistent with the State policy to protect the interests of consumers, promote their general welfare, and establish standards of conduct for business and industry, this proposed measure aims to introduce additional safeguards for consumers, as well

as establish standards of ethical conduct for offline and online business and industry. Thus, this bill seeks to amend Republic Act No. 7394 or the Consumer Act of the Philippines, specifying the eight (8) basic consumer rights which shall be the pillars for consumer-related measures and policies. It also specifically prohibits the employment of pseudo-investments, including pyramid sales schemes, Ponzi schemes, telemarketing fraud, and technology fraud, in the sale of consumer products.

To ensure transparency in commercial transactions, this measure lays down stricter rules on labeling products, such as the inclusion of English or Filipino translation of product labels in foreign languages and the setting of guidelines for proper labeling of drugs and cosmetics. Significantly, this measure does not only impose stricter standards and additional requirements for business and industry, but also creates a concurrent responsibility on the part of consumers in terms of vigilance, proactiveness, social concern, and environmental awareness.

These amendments aim to enhance consumer protection and promote ethical standards in trade practices which will consequently improve market outcomes for the entire economy.

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

WIN GATCHALIAN

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

Article I

General Provisions

Sec. 1. Short Title. — This Act shall be known as the "Enhanced Consumer Act 1 2 of the Philippines". 3 Sec. 2. Article 2 of Republic Act (R.A.) No. 7394, as amended, is hereby 4 amended to read as follows: 5 6 7 "Article 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is the policy of the State to protect the interests of [the] consumer**S**, promote [his] **THEIR** general welfare 8 9 and [to] establish standards of conduct for business and industry.

	THE CTATE MEETS TO DEVELOD AND IMPLEMENT A STRONG
1	THE STATE NEEDS TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A STRONG
2	CONSUMER PROTECTION POLICY, PROMOTE THE GENERAL
3	WELFARE OF CONSUMERS, AND ESTABLISH STANDARDS OF
4	ETHICAL CONDUCT FOR OFFLINE AND ONLINE BUSINESS AND
5	INDUSTRY.
6	
7	Towards this end, the State shall implement measures to achieve the
8	following objectives:
9	[a) protection against hazards to health and safety;
10	b) protection against deceptive, unfair and unconscionable sales acts
11	and practices;
12	c) provision of information and education to facilitate sound choice and
13	the proper exercise of rights by the consumer;
14	d) provision of adequate rights and means of redress; and
15	e) involvement of consumer representatives in the formulation of social
16	and economic policies.]
17	
18	A. DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A STRONG CONSUMER
19	PROTECTION POLICY THAT WILL ENSURE THE ACCESS OF
20	CONSUMERS TO QUALITY, SAFE, AND NON-HAZARDOUS
21	PRODUCTS AND FAIR, EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE
22	ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT AND
23	ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION;
24	B. UPHOLD STANDARDS OF ETHICAL CONDUCT FOR
25	INDIVIDUALS ENGAGED IN THE PRODUCTION AND
26	DISTRIBUTION OF GOODS AND SERVICES TO CONSUMERS,
27	INCLUDING INTERNET TRANSACTIONS:
28	C. ENCOURAGE SELF-REGULATION IN THE ADVERTISING
29	INDUSTRY TO ENHANCE AND ENSURE CONSUMER
30	PROTECTION THROUGH THE ADOPTION AND OBSERVANCE

1	OF A CODE OF ETHICS CONSISTENT WITH THIS ACT AND
2	ITS IMPLEMENTING RULES AND REGULATIONS;
3	D. PREVENT ENTERPRISES FROM ENGAGING IN ABUSIVE
4	BUSINESS PRACTICES;
5	E. FACILITATE THE RECOGNITION OF INDEPENDENT
6	CONSUMER GROUPS;
7	F. ENCOURAGE THE DEVELOPMENT OF MARKET CONDITIONS
8	THAT ARE FREE FROM HOARDING AND HELP CONSUMERS
9	MAKE WELL-INFORMED CHOICES; AND
10	G. PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE CONSUMPTION TO FACILITATE
11	PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION PATTERNS WHICH
12	BALANCE THE RESOURCES AND THE NEEDS OF THE
13	CONSUMERS, THEREBY REDUCING THE RATE OF
14	HOUSEHOLD INSECURITIES."
15	
16	Sec. 3. A new Article 4 is hereby inserted after Article 3 of Republic Act No.
17	7394, as amended, and the subsequent articles shall be renumbered accordingly:
18	
19	"ARTICLE 4. CONSUMER RIGHTS. — THE GOVERNMENT, IN
20	MAINTAINING AND STRENGTHENING THE PROMOTION OF
21	CONSUMER INTEREST AND WELFARE IN RELATION TO
22	BUSINESS AND INDUSTRY PRACTICE AS WELL AS THE
23	PRODUCTION AND DISTRIBUTION OF CONSUMER PRODUCTS,
24	SHALL ADOPT MEASURES AND FORMULATE POLICIES TAKING
25	INTO ACCOUNT THE EIGHT (8) BASIC CONSUMER RIGHTS.
26	EVERY CONSUMER SHALL BE ENTITLED TO THE:
27	A. RIGHT TO BASIC NEEDS. EVERY CONSUMER SHALL HAVE
28	ACCESS TO BASIC AND ESSSENTIAL GOODS AND SERVICES,
29	SUCH AS ADEQUATE FOOD, CLOTHING SHELTER

1	HEALTHCARE, EDUCATION, PUBLIC UTILITIES, WATER,
2	AND SANITATION;
3	B. RIGHT TO CHOOSE. EVERY CONSUMER SHALL HAVE THE
4	RIGHT TO SELECT FROM A VARIETY OF GOODS AND
5	SERVICES OFFERED AT COMPETITIVE PRICES, EITHER
6	SOLD IN PERSON OR ONLINE, WITH AN ASSURANCE OF
7	SATISFACTORY QUALITY;
8	C. RIGHT TO BE HEARD. – EVERY CONSUMER SHALL BE
9	ENTITLED TO EXPRESS INTEREST, TO BE INVOLVED,
10	HEARD, AND CONSIDERED IN THE FORMULATION AND
11	IMPLEMENTATION OF GOVERNMENT POLICIES;
12	D. RIGHT TO REDRESS. EVERY CONSUMER SHALL HAVE
13	ACCESS TO APPROPRIATE REMEDIES FOR
14	MISREPRESENTATION, SUBSTANDARD OR DEFECTIVE
15	PRODUCTS OR UNSATISFACTORY SERVICES:
16	E. RIGHT TO CONSUMER EDUCATION EVERY CONSUMER
17	SHALL HAVE ACCESS TO KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS NEEDED
18	TO MAKE INFORMED CHOICES AND UNDERSTAND THE
19	ENVIRONMENTAL, SOCIAL, AND ECONOMIC
20	CONSEQUENCES OF THEIR DECISIONS THROUGH THE USE
21	OF ALL AVAILABLE AND CONVENIENT MEANS;
22	F. RIGHT TO SAFETY. — EVERY CONSUMER SHALL BE
23	PROTECTED AGAINST HAZARDOUS PRODUCTS,
24	PRODUCTION PROCESSES, AND SERVICES;
25	G. RIGHT TO A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT. – EVERY CONSUMER
26	SHALL HAVE THE RIGHT TO LIVE AND WORK IN AN
27	ENVIRONMENT THAT IS NEITHER THREATENING NOR
28	DANGEROUS, AND ALLOWS A LIFE OF DIGNITY AND WELL-

BEING; AND

1	H. RIGHT TO INFORMATION. – EVERY CONSUMER SHALL BE
2	PROVIDED WITH INFORMATION NECESSARY TO MAKE AN
3	INFORMED CHOICE ON PRODUCTS AND SERVICES AND
4	SHALL BE PROTECTED AGAINST DISHONEST OR
5	MISLEADING ADVERTISING AND LABELING."
6	
7	Sec. 4. A new Article 5 is hereby inserted after the new Article 4 of Republic
8	Act No. 7394, as amended, and the subsequent articles shall be renumbered
9	accordingly:
10	
11	"ARTICLE 5. CONSUMER RESPONSIBILITIES IN RELATION
12	TO THE BASIC RIGHTS GRANTED IN THE PRECEDING ARTICLE,
13	EVERY CONSUMER SHALL EXERCISE THE FOLLOWING
14	RESPONSIBILITIES:
15	A. CRITICAL AWARENESS. – EVERY CONSUMER SHALL BE
16	VILIGANT AND INFORMED ABOUT THE USE, PRICE,
17	SOURCE, AND QUALITY OF GOODS AND SERVICES;
18	B. ACTION. – EVERY CONSUMER SHALL ASSERT THE RIGHT TO
19	TAKE ACTION TO ENSURE THAT ONE'S RIGHTS AS A
20	CONSUMER ARE AMPLY PROTECTED;
21	C. SOCIAL CONCERN EVERY CONSUMER SHALL BE AWARE
22	OF THE IMPACT OF ONE'S CONSUMPTION ON OTHER
23	CITIZENS ESPECIALLY THE MARGINALIZED GROUPS;
24	D. ENVIRONMENTAL AWARENESS. – EVERY CONSUMER
25	SHALL BE CONSTANTLY AWARE OF THE IMPACT OF HUMAN
26	ACTIVITY TO THE ENVIRONMENT. THE CONSUMER SHOULD
27	RECOGNIZE THE OBLIGATION OF INDIVIDUALS, AND OF
28	SOCIETY IN GENERAL, TO UTILIZE NATURAL RESOURCES
29	SUSTAINABLY AND RESPONSIBLY, AND TO SECURE AND
30	PROTECT THE EARTH FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS; AND

E.	SOLIDARITY.	_	CONSUME	RS	SHALL	ORGAN	IZE
	THEMSELVES	INTO	GROUPS	OR	ASSOCI	ATIONS	TO
	STRENGTHEN	THEIR	POSITION	IN T	HE FORM	ULATION	I OF
	POLICIES AIM	IED AT	ADVANCIN	G ANI	D PROTEC	TING TH	EIR
	INTERESTS."						

Sec. 5. Article 4 (k) of Republic Act No. 7394, as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows:

- "Article [4] **6**. *Definition of Terms*. For purposes of this Act, the term:
 - k. Chain distribution plan**S** [or pyramid sales schemes means sales devices whereby a person, upon condition that he makes an investment, is granted by the manufacturer or his representative a right to recruit for profit one or more additional persons who will also be granted such right to recruit upon condition of making similar investments: Provided, That the profits of the person employing such a plan are derived primarily from the recruitment of other persons into the plan rather than from the sale of consumer products, services and credit: Provided, further, That the limitation on the number of participants does not change the nature of the plan.] OR "PSEUDO-INVESTMENTS" REFER TO ANY BUSINESS STRUCTURE, SALES OR MARKETING PLAN OR SCHEME SUCH AS:
 - 1. "PYRAMID SALES SCHEME" REFERS TO A SALE DEVICE OR PLAN WHEREBY, UPON CONDITION THAT AN INVESTMENT IS MADE BY WAY OF PURCHASING GOODS OR PAYING A FEE, A PERSON IS GRANTED BY A MANUFACTURER OR THE MANUFACTURER'S REPRESENTATIVE THE RIGHT TO SELL PRODUCTS AND SERVICES AS WELL AS RECRUIT ONE OR MORE

1		ADDITIONAL PERSONS WHO WILL BE GRANTED SUCH
2		RIGHT TO RECRUIT, UPON CONDITION OF MAKING
3		SIMILAR INVESTMENTS;
4	2.	"PONZI SCHEME" REFERS TO A BUSINESS STRUCTURE
5		OPERATED BY A PERSON OR GROUP, NATURAL OR
6		JURIDICAL, WHERE THERE IS NO TRUE PRODUCT OR
7		SERVICE BEING OFFERED IN EXCHANGE FOR THE
8		INVESTMENT AND WHERE THE MONEY TENDERED BY
9		NEW INVESTORS ARE PAID TO EARLIER INVESTORS;
10	3.	"TELEMARKETING FRAUD" REFERS TO A SCHEME
11		WHERE HIGH PRESSURE SALES TACTICS ARE MADE
12		OVER THE PHONE WITH THE INTENT TO MAKE THE
13		INVESTOR BUY INTO A FRAUDULENT OR NON-
14		EXISTENT INVESTMENT OFFERING; AND
15	4.	"TECHNOLOGY FRAUD" REFERS TO A SCHEME
16		WHEREIN INVESTORS ARE DECEIVED INTO MAKING
17		PRUCHASES OF OR INVESTMENTS ON NON-EXISTENT
18		PRODUCTS, THROUGH THE INTERNET OR DIGITAL
19		PLATFORMS."
20		
21	Sec. 6. A new	Article 54 is hereby inserted after the renumbered Article 53 of
22	Republic Act No. 7394	, as amended, and the subsequent articles shall be renumbered
23	accordingly:	
24		
25	"ARTIC	LE 54. <i>BILLING STATEMENTS AND OTHER</i>
26	TRANS	ACTION DOCUMENTS. — BILLING STATEMENTS AND
27	OTHER	TRANSACTION DOCUMENTS MAY BE SENT IN PRINTED
28	OR ELE	CTRONIC FORM AT THE OPTION OF, AND WITHOUT ANY
29	ADDIT	ONAL COST, TO CONSUMERS. THE CONSUMERS' RIGHT
RO.		FCT THE MODE IN WHICH THEY DECEIVE THEID

1	BILLING STATEMENTS AND OTHER TRANSACTION
2	DOCUMENTS MAY NOT BE CONDITIONED ON THE VALUE OF
3	THE PRODUCTS OR SERVICES PROVIDED IN THE
4	TRANSACTION.
5	
6	Sec. 7. Article 53 of Republic Act No. 7394, as amended, is hereby amended to
7	read as follows:
8	
9	"ARTICLE. [53] 56. Chain Distribution Plans or [Pyramid Sales
10	Schemes Chain distribution plans or
11	[pyramid sales schemes] PSEUDO-INVESTMENTS shall not be
12	employed in the sale of consumer products."
13	
14	Sec. 8 Article 64 of Republic Act No. 7394, as amended, is hereby amended to
15	read as follows:
16	
17	"Article [64] 67. Fraudulent Practices Relative to Weights and Measures.
18	- The following acts relating to weights and measures are prohibited: x
19	x x
20	
21	L. FOR ANY PERSON TO CONCEAL OR DESTROY (1) A FALSE OR
22	COUNTERFEIT SEAL, STICKER, BRAND, STAMP, TAG,
23	CERTIFICATE, LICENSE OR DYE, OR (2) AN ALTERED,
24	TAMPERED, VANDALIZED SCALE, BALANCE, WEIGHT, OR
25	MEASURE TO PREVENT DISCOVERY OR SEIZURE; OR
26	
27	[I] M. For any person to procure, OR COOPERATE IN, OR PROFIT
28	FROM THE commission of any such offense abovementioned by
29	another

Instruments officially sealed at some previous time which have remained unaltered and accurate and the seal or tag officially affixed thereto remains intact and in the same position and condition in which it was placed by the official sealer or his duly authorized representative shall, if presented for sealing, be sealed promptly on demand by the official sealer or his authorized representative without penalty except a surcharge fixed by law or regulation."

Sec. 9. Article 76 of Republic Act No. 7394, as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows:

"Article [76] 79. Prohibited Act on Labeling and Packaging. — It shall be unlawful for any person, either as principal or agent, engaged in the [labeling or packaging] SALE, DISTRIBUTION, MANUFACTURING of any consumer product, to display, SELL, or distribute, or to cause to be displayed, SOLD or distributed in commerce any consumer product whose package or label does not conform to the provisions of this chapter.

CONSUMER PRODUCTS THAT DO NOT COMPLY WITH THE DATE LABEL REQUIREMENT SHALL NOT BE SOLD OR DISTRIBUTED IN THE MARKET ONE (1) YEAR AFTER THE ENACTMENT OF THIS ACT.

The prohibition in this chapter shall not apply to persons engaged in the business or wholesale or retail distributors of consumer products **OR**CONSUMER PRODUCTS MANUFACTURED OUTSIDE THE

COUNTRY AND DIRECTLY SHIPPED FROM THE MANUFACTURER

TO CONSUMER BY MAIL OR OTHER DELIVERY SERVICES except to the extent that such persons:

2 prescribe or specify by any means the manner in which such products are packaged or labeled; or 3 4 c. having knowledge, refuse to disclose the source of the mislabeled 5 or mispackaged products." 6 7 Sec. 10. Article 77 of Republic Act No. 7394, as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows: 8 9 10 "Article [77] 80. Minimum Labeling Requirements for Consumer 11 Products. – All consumer products domestically sold whether 12 manufactured locally or imported shall indicate the following in their respective labels of packaging: x x x 13 14 q. country of manufacture, if imported; [and] h. if a consumer product is manufactured, refilled or repacked under 15 16 license from a principal, the label shall so state the fact; AND ITS "MANUFACTURING DATE", "EXPIRATION DATE", AND 17 Ι. 18 IF APPLICABLE, THE "BEST BEFORE DATE." THE UNIFORM 19 DATE LABEL MUST BE PRINTED CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY ON 20 THE LABEL IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER: MONTH, DAY, AND 21 YEAR. THE DAY AND THE YEAR MUST BE WRITTEN IN 22 FIGURES, WHILE THE MONTH MUST BE WRITTEN IN WORDS. THE TEXT MUST BE IN A SINGLE EASY-TO-READ 23 24 TYPE STYLE USING UPPER- AND LOWER-CASE LETTERS IN THE STANDARD FORM. THE USE OF "USE-BY", "CONSUME 25 BEFORE", "BEST IF USED BY" AND OTHER SIMILAR 26 PHRASES SHALL NOT BE USED AS DATE LABELS ON THE 27 28 PACKAGING OF CONSUMER PRODUCTS.

are engaged in the packaging or labeling of such products;

1

1	FOR PURPOSES OF THIS ACT, "MANUFACTURING DATE"
2	REFERS TO THE DATE WHEN THE PRODUCT WAS
3	PRODUCED OR MADE BY THE MANUFACTURER; "BEST
4	BEFORE DATE" REFERS TO THE DATE WHEN THE QUALITY
5	OF THE PRODUCT BEGINS TO DETERIORATE, BUT IS STILL
6	ACCEPTABLE FOR CONSUMPTION BEFORE THE
7	EXPIRATION DATE; AND "EXPIRATION DATE" REFERS TO
8	THE DATE STATED ON THE LABEL OF FOOD, DRUG,
9	COMESTIC, OR SIMILAR CONSUMER PRODUCT AFTER THE
10	SAFETY, EFFICACY, QUALITY OR POTENCY MUST HAVE RUN
11	ITS COURSE.
12	The following may be required by the concerned department in
13	accordance with the rules and regulations they will promulgate
14	under authority of this Act: $x \times x''$
15	
16	Sec. 11. Article 84 of Republic Act No. 7394, as amended, is hereby amended
17	to read as follows:
18	
19	"Article [84] 87. Additional Labeling Requirement for Food. – The
20	following additional labeling requirements shall be imposed by the
21	concerned department for food:
22	a) [expiry or] MANUFACTURING DATE, expiration date, [where] and
23	WHENEVER applicable, THE BEST BEFORE DATE; x x x"
24	
25	Sec 12. Article 86 of Republic Act No. 7394, as amended, is hereby amended
26	to read as follows:
27	
28	"Article [86] 89. Labeling of Drugs. – The Generics Act, AND OTHER
29	LAWS AMENDATORY THERETO, shall apply in the labeling of drugs.
30	THE FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION SHALL ENSURE THAT

1	ALL DRUGS MANUFACTURED AND DISTRIBUTED LOCALLY
2	SHALL HAVE "MANUFACTURING DATE" AND "EXPIRATION
3	DATE" ON THEIR LABELS. THE UNIFORM DATE LABELS
4	REQUIRED MUST BE PRINTED CLEARLY AND LEGIBLY ON THE
5	LABEL IN THE FOLLOWING ORDER: MONTH, DAY AND YEAR.
6	THE DAY AND THE YEAR MUST BE WRITTEN IN FIGURES WHILE
7	THE MONTH MUST BE WRITTEN IN WORDS. THE TEXT MUST BE
8	IN A SINGLE EASY-TO-READ TYPE STYLE USING UPPER- AND
9	LOWER-CASE LETTERS IN THE STANDARD FORM.
10	
11	FOR PRODUCTS RECONSTITUTED PRIOR TO USE, AND THOSE
12	WHICH CAN BE ADMINISTERED MULTIPLE TIMES, THE LABEL
13	SHALL INCLUDE THE PERIOD OF GUARANTEED SAFETY,
14	EFFICACY, AND QUALITY OF THE RECONSTITUTED
15	PREPARATION AFTER FIRST OPENING AT GIVEN STORAGE
16	CONDITIONS."
17	
18	Sec. 13. Article 87 of Republic Act No. 7394, as amended, is hereby amended
19	to read as follows:
20	
21	"Article [87] 90. Additional Labeling Requirements for Cosmetics. – The
22	following additional requirements may be required for cosmetics:
23	a) MANUFACTURING DATE AND expiry or expiration date; $x \times x''$
24	
25	Sec. 14. A new Article 93 is hereby inserted after the renumbered Article 92 of
26	Republic Act No. 7394, as amended, and the subsequent articles shall be renumbered
27	accordingly:
28	
29	"ARTICLE 93. ENGLISH OR FILIPINO TRANSLATIONS OF
30	PRODUCT LARGES IMPITTEN IN EXPERSA CHARACTERS OF

1 LANGUAGES. - CONSUMER PRODUCTS WITH PRODUCT LABELS 2 WRITTEN IN FOREIGN CHARACTERS OR LANGUAGE SHALL BE ALLOWED ENTRY INTO THE COUNTRY AND INTRODUCED INTO 3 COMMERCE ONLY IF THEY HAVE A CORRESPONDING ENGLISH 4 OR FILIPINO TRANSLATION TO ENABLE THE AUTHORITIES TO 5 DETERMINE WHETHER THE PRODUCT HAS COMPLIED WITH 6 7 ALL THE OTHER LABELING REQUIREMENTS AS WELL AS 8 PROVIDE THE CONSUMERS PROPER GUIDANCE ON THE CONTENTS AND ORIGIN OF THE PRODUCT." 9 10 11 Sec. 15. A new Article 94 is hereby inserted after the new Article 93 of Republic Act No. 7394, as amended, and the subsequent articles shall be renumbered 12 accordingly: 13 14 "ARTICLE 94. OFFICIAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION FOR 15 IMPORTED CONSUMER PRODUCTS. - IMPORT DATA FROM THE 16 17 **BUREAU OF CUSTOMS AND BUREAU OF IMPORT SERVICES OF** THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY SHALL BE 18 RECOGNIZED AS OFFICIAL SOURCES OF INFORMATION TO 19 VALIDATE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION RELATIVE TO A 20 PARTICULAR IMPORTED CONSUMER PRODUCT: 21 1. COUNTRY OF MANUFACTURE; 22 23 2. NAME AND ADDRESS OF MANUFACTURER OR EXPORTER; 3. NAME AND ADDRESS OF IMPORTER OR CONSIGNEE; 24 4. VALUE AND VOLUME OF SHIPMENT; 25 5. DATE OF ARRIVAL; AND 26

QUESTION."

6. OTHER INFORMATION RELEVANT TO THE SHIPMENT IN

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Sec. 16. Article 116 of Republic Act No. 7394, as amended, is hereby amended to read as follows:

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"Article [116] 121. Permit to Conduct Promotion. – No person shall conduct any sales [campaigns, including beauty contest, national in character, sponsored and promoted by manufacturing enterprises] PROMOTION OF PRODUCTS AND SERVICES OR THE SALE THEREOF, THROUGH AND WITH THE USE OF ALL FORMS OF MEDIA, **INFORMATION** AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGIES, INCLUDING BEAUTY CONTESTS THAT ARE NATIONAL IN CHARACTER, SPONSORED AND PROMOTED BY PRODUCERS, MANUFACTURERS, DISTRIBUTORS, SUPPLIERS, **IMPORTERS, RETAILERS OR THEIR AGENTS** without first securing a permit from the concerned department of at least [thirty (30 calendar] **FIFTEEN (15)** days prior to the commencement thereof. [Unless an objection or denial is received within fifteen (15) days from filing of the application, the same shall be deemed approved and the promotion campaign or activity may be conducted] Provided, That any sales promotion campaign using medical prescriptions or any part thereof or attachment [thereto for raffles or a promise of reward] shall not be allowed, nor a permit be issued thereof.

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Sec 17. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* — Within ninety (90) days after the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Trade and Industry, in coordination with the implementing agencies under this Act, other relevant government agencies, and stakeholders, shall promulgate the rules and regulations to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

28

Sec. 18. Separability Clause. — If any portion or provision of this Act is declared
unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act or any provisions not affected thereby shall
remain in full force and effect.

Sec. 19. *Repealing Clause.* — Any laws, presidential decrees or issuances, executive orders, letters of instruction, and rules or regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Sec. 20. *Effectivity*. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days following its complete publication in two (2) newspapers of general circulation or in the Official Gazette.

Approved,