

ENERGY DRINKS (PROHIBITION) ACT 2019

Principal Act

Act. No. 2019-04

Commencement

21.3.2019

Assent

18.3.2019

ARRANGEMENT OF SECTIONS

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AN ACT TO MAKE PROVISION FOR OFFENCES RELATING TO THE SALE OF ENERGY DRINKS, AND TO PROVIDE FOR THE ENFORCEMENT OF THOSE OFFENCES, AND FOR CONNECTED PURPOSES.

Title.

1. This Act may be cited as the Energy Drinks (Prohibition) Act 2019.

Commencement.

2. This Act comes into operation on the day of publication.

Interpretation

3. In this Act—

“EEA state” means a State that is a party to the European Economic Area Agreement;

“energy drink” has the meaning given in section 4;

“identity card” means—

- (a) an identity card or civilian registration card issued under the Civilians Registration Act; or
- (b) an identity card issued by an EEA state;

“premises” includes any place and any vehicle, vessel, aircraft, stall or moveable structure;

“sell” includes offer for sale.

Energy drink.

4.(1) In this Act “energy drink” means any liquid intended for human consumption, other than tea or coffee, that contains over 150 milligrams of caffeine per litre.

- (2) The Minister may by regulations amend subsection (1).

Prohibition on the sale of energy drinks to persons aged under 16.

5.(1) Any person who sells an energy drink to a person under the age of 16 years (the “relevant person”) is guilty of an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine up to level 3 on the standard scale.

(2) It is a defence for a person charged with the commission of an offence under this section by reason of his own conduct to prove that—

- (a) he believed that the relevant person was aged 16 or over;
- (b) the relevant person produced as evidence of his age—
 - (i) a passport; or
 - (ii) an identity card; and
- (c) that evidence would have convinced a reasonable person.

(3) Where a person is charged with an offence under this section by reason of the act or default of some other person, it is a defence that he exercised all due diligence to avoid committing it including the training, monitoring and supervision of staff.

Notice in premises where energy drinks are sold.

6.(1) A notice displaying the following statement—

“It is illegal to sell energy drinks to anyone under the age of 16.”

shall be exhibited at every premises in which energy drinks are sold, and shall be exhibited in a prominent position where the statement is readily visible to persons at the point of sale of the energy drink.

(2) The dimensions of the notice to be exhibited in accordance with subsection (1) shall be at least 297 millimetres by 420 millimetres and the statement shall be such that no character shall be less than 36 millimetres high.

Failure to comply with section 6.

7.(1) Where—

- (a) any person carries on a business involving the sale of energy drinks at any premises; and
- (b) no notice is exhibited at those premises in accordance with section 6; or
- (c) the notice exhibited does not conform with the requirements of section 6,

that person shall be guilty of an offence and liable on summary conviction to a fine up to level 2 on the standard scale.

(2) Where any such offence is committed by a body corporate and is proved to have been committed with the consent or connivance of, or to be attributable to any neglect on the part of, any director, manager, secretary or other similar officer of the body corporate, or any person who was purporting to act in any such capacity, he as well as the body corporate shall be guilty of that offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.

Prohibition of energy drinks in vending machines.

8.(1) Where an energy drink is offered for sale or sold by a vending machine the owner of that machine commits an offence and is liable on summary conviction to a fine up to level 3 on the standard scale.

(2) Where an offence under subsection (1) has been committed, the following people may each be proceeded against for the purposes of this Act—

- (a) the operator of the vending machine;
- (b) the owner of the premises where the vending machine is located; or
- (c) the occupier of the premises where the vending machine is located.

(3) Where any such offence is committed by a body corporate and is proved to have been committed with the consent or connivance of, or to be attributable to any neglect on the part of, any director, manager, secretary or other similar officer of the body corporate, or any person who was purporting to act in any such capacity, he as well as the body corporate shall be guilty of that offence and shall be liable to be proceeded against and punished accordingly.