
A SENATE BILL FOR AN ACT

Establishing an Act to prevent and protect against public littering through the chewing, spitting of betel nut in public places, and regulate the same, including the import, possession, advertising, sale, or distribution of betel nut (betel quids); and for other purposes.

Be it enacted by the Chuuk State Legislature:

1 **Section 1. Title.** This act may be cited as the "Betel Nut Act of 2025".

2 **Section 2. Purpose.** It is public knowledge that chewing and spitting of betelnut in public
3 places has disproportionately increased. Studies of betel nut use or consumption have shown to cause
4 diseases, disabilities, death, and endangers lives of users and their families. Betel Nut use is also known
5 to be addictive especially when used with a tobacco combination (cigarette or other chewing tobacco
6 as alternatives) yet most users are not aware of the extent of the harm caused by it given the addictive
7 components. Survey shows that women, in Micronesia, using betel nut during pregnancy often result
8 in birth deficiencies (weight lower than average of a Child during birth and others).

9 **Section 3. Definitions.** When used in this act, unless the context otherwise requires, the
10 following words shall be defined as follows:

11 1. "Betel Nut" means the seed or fruit of Betel (Areca Catechu) palm tree.

12 2. "Public Places" means any premises, work place, road, park to which the general public
13 have access to, including:

14 a) Public Facilities: Government buildings and its Corridors, Conference Rooms,
15 Meeting Halls and 10 meters away from the outside of any part of the building;

16 b) Health facilities: Hospitals, Health Centers, Pharmacies; nursing stations;

17 c) Educational institutes: University, Colleges and Schools;

18 d) Sport Facilities: Gymnasiums, Fields, Stadiums, Courts and other Facilities
19 designated for Sports;

20 e) Public roads: all roads and easements and accessed by the general public;

21 f) Any premises in which children are cared for: Elementary Classrooms, Child Care
22 Centers, Playgrounds and others where Children are present.

23 g) any form of transportation used for public commercial or professional purposes and
24 uses which includes but not limited to: Air, Sea, and Land Transportations;

25 h) Public Transportation Terminals: Airports, Seaports, Docks, and any other Public
26 Transportation Terminals;

- 1 i) Fast Food Establishments: Markets, Take outs, Coffee Shops, Snack Bar, Hotdog
2 Stands, Ice Cream Trucks and others referring to as Fast Food Establishments;
- 3 j) Retail establishments: Shopping Centers, Grocery Stores, Liquor Stores, Public
4 Markets, Mini Stores, General Stores, gas stations and others referred to as Retail
5 Establishments;
- 6 k) Restaurants and Bars: Food Establishments access by the General Public for eating,
7 including but not limited to accessing beverages either alcoholic or non-alcoholic;
- 8 l) Publicly owned or Privately owned facilities rented out for events or functions:
9 Beaches, Parks, Meeting Halls privately owned, Manmade Water Parks,
10 Pools, and others;
- 11 m) Hotels, sports grounds and parks, gymnasium;
- 12 n) any other facilities easily accessed by the public; as defined in this Act;
- 13 3. "Spitting, Spit, Sputum" means any form of excretion of liquid from the mouth that
14 result from the chewing of Betel Nut;
- 15 4. "Betel Nut Chewing" means the inserting of betel nut with its chewing components into
16 the mouth and the chewing;
- 17 5. "Enclosed or Covered Containers" means any form of container which is enclosed sealed
18 with a cover and wrapped within a wrapping in a manner which one cannot see the
19 contents and when tipped over the contents remain within;
- 20 6. "Minors" means a person who is under the age of 18.

21 **Section 4. Prohibiting of Chewing and Spitting.** Chewing and/or Spitting of betel nut is
22 prohibited:

- 23 1. Within any Public Place as define in Section 3 of this Act;
- 24 2. 10 meters away from public place described in this Act; Notwithstanding the provisions
25 of this Section, the spitting of betel nut juice is prohibited at any public place in the State
26 unless the user is spitting directly into a container ready to be enclosed as defined in of
27 Section 3;
- 28 3. Disposing of bottles containing spit (Sputum) or spit contained in the bottles, in any area
29 prohibited under this Act, is an offence and carries the penalty under Section 8 of this Act.

30 **Section 5. Responsibilities of Official in Charge.** An owner, Operator, Manager, or other
31 individual with authority over a public place, premises and other prohibited areas within this Act, shall
32 be responsible to carry out the provisions of this Act and do the following within his jurisdiction;

- 33 1. Post conspicuous signs in both Chuukese and English Language using 72 point Arial
34 font or an equivalent font size that read:

1 "BY LAW, CHEWING AND SPITTING WITHIN
2 THIS PREMISES IS PROHIBITED"; and

3 2. Ban individuals from entering the premises who are in violation of this Act.

4 **Section 6. Prohibiting the Advertising, Selling, or transfer to minors.**

5 No person or persons who conduct business or who is employed by a business which that, sell, retail
6 sale, advertise or cause to distribute betel nut product to minors or to any persons which the seller has
7 reason to believe that such product is obtained on behalf of a minor. Any breach to this section is an
8 offence punishable by \$100 upon conviction of the first offence, and not more than \$500 for repeated
9 offence.

10 **Section 7. Enforcement.** The Director of Public Safety and the Municipal Government with
11 the division of Sanitation of the Health Department shall implement the provisions of this Act. The
12 enforcement and citations of persons who violate the provisions of this act shall be processed by:

13 1. Reporting: when a person is found to violate the provisions of this Act he/she is subjected
14 to citation and the enforcer must file a report of the incident.

15 2. Citations: the contents of citations must include the following:

16 Date,

17 Full Name of the violator,

18 Gender,

19 Age,

20 Occupation,

21 Current Resident;

22 Home Island,

23 Incident summary,

24 Accrued violations,

25 A fee for the violation,

26 When and where to pay the fee,

27 On the spot settlements,

28 Payment at the department;

29 The citation must also include a written warning to the person about continual
30 violations;

31 And a printed name of the issuer of the citation and his signature.

32 3. If any person is found and wants to settle the issue on the spot, he/she may pay a fee as
33 provided within section 8 of this act, the enforcer may record the payment in the incident
34 report and submit it to his department and to the Director Finance. The person who settled

1 on the spot may have the liberty to do a follow up with the department concerned on his
2 payment.

3 **Section 8. Violations and Penalties.** A person or any persons in violation of the provisions
4 within this act shall pay \$100 upon first conviction and not less than \$200 or imprisonment of not less
5 than 20 days or both

6 **Section 9. On the Spot Fines and Payment and the Finance Department.** On the spot fines
7 and payment at the Finance Department may be requested by any person to any enforcement officer
8 under this Act. The process of fine imposed and requested under this section shall effectively follow
9 the following process:

10 1. On the spot settlements

- 11 a) In any case of an individual, he/ she shall be fined not less than \$25.00 for the first
12 citation and \$50 for any successive citations;
13 b) In any case of an entity, it shall be a fine of not less than \$100 for the first citation and
14 \$150 for any successive citation.
15 c) Payment done and collected by enforcement officers under this subsection shall be
16 paid directly to the Finance Department daily. The final authority for cancellation of
17 charges or citations shall be made upon the receipt of the money collected by the
18 Director of Finance Department or his designee.

19 2. Payment at the department

- 20 a) In any case of an individual he/she shall be fine not less than \$25.00 for the first
21 citation and \$50 for successive citations. Payment under this subsection shall be made
22 within 7 days after the receipt of citation;
23 b) In any case of an entity, it shall be a fine of not less than \$100.00 for the first citation
24 and \$150 for successive citations. Payment under this subsection shall be made within
25 7 days after the receipt of citation;
26 c) Upon the receipt of the money collected by the Director of Finance Department or his
27 designee, charge or citation shall be cancelled by the Director or his designee.

28 **Section 9. Severability.** If any language, clause, or provision in part or in whole is in
29 contradiction to this Act or is deemed unenforceable either in part or in whole, the remainder of this
30 Act shall remain in full force.

31 **Section 10. Effective Date.** This Act shall become law upon its approval by the Governor of
32 the State of Chuuk by way of affixing his signature, or upon its becoming law by itself without such
33 approval.

Date: 17 AUGUST 25

Introduced by:

Vice President Wisney Nakayama