

CG-3 11-25

SENATE
S. No. 2338

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 2, Section 15, provides:

The States shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.

Consumers have the right to know the country of origin of the purchase. However, there is no law requiring that imported agricultural commodities offered for retail sale bear a label identify their country of origin.

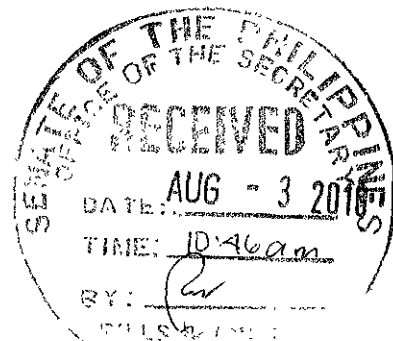
The label that identifies the perishable agricultural commodity's country of origin would enable the consumers to make decisions about food safety concerns, or if they have concerns about pesticide, or environmental practices in specific countries.

This bill* seeks to require country-of-origin labeling of perishable agricultural commodities imported into the Philippines and to establish penalties for violations of the labeling requirements.

acc.

MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

* This bill was originally tiled by the Senator during the Thirteenth Congress



Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

1 AN ACT TO REQUIRE COUNTRY-OF-ORIGIN LABELING OF PERISHABLE
2 AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES IMPORTED INTO THE PHILIPPINES AND TO
3 ESTABLISH PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE LABELING REQUIREMENTS

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

4 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* - This Act shall be known as the “Imported Produce Labeling
5 Act.”

6
7 SECTION 2. *Definitions.* -For purposes of this Act, the term:

8 (1) “Perishable Agricultural Commodity” means, whether or not frozen or packed
9 in ice, fresh fruits and fresh vegetables of every kind and character.

10 (2) “Retailer” means person engaged in the business of selling consumer products
11 directly to consumers.

12
13 SECTION 3. *Indication of Country of Origin of Imported Perishable Agricultural*
14 *Commodities.-*

15 (1) NOTICE OF COUNTRY OF ORIGIN REQUIRED - A retailer of a
16 perishable agricultural commodity into the Philippines shall inform consumers, at the
17 final point of sale of the perishable agricultural commodity to consumers, of the country
18 of origin of the perishable agricultural commodity.

19 (2) METHOD OF NOTIFICATION-

20 (A) IN GENERAL - The information required by subsection (1) may be
21 provided to consumers by means of a label, stamp, mark, placard, or other clear
22 and visible sign on the imported perishable agricultural commodity or on the

1 package, display, holding unit, or bin containing the commodity at the final point
2 of sale to consumers.

3 (B) LABELED COMMODITIES - If the imported perishable agricultural
4 commodity is already individually labeled regarding country of origin by the
5 packer, importer, or another person, the retailer shall not be required to provide
6 any additional information to comply with this Section.

7 (3) APPLICATION OF SECTION - This Act shall apply with respect to a
8 perishable agricultural commodity imported into the Philippines after the end of the 6-
9 month period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

10
11 SECTION 4. *Regulations.* - Not later than one (1) year after the enactment of this
12 Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall promulgate rules and regulations to carry out the
13 provisions on this Act.

14
15 SECTION 5. *Penalties.* - Any person who shall violate any provision of this Act shall
16 upon conviction, be subject to a fine of not less than One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) but not
17 more than Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00) or imprisonment of not less than two (2) months
18 but not more than one (1) year, or both upon the discretion of the court. If the offender is an
19 alien, he shall be deported after service of sentence and payment of fine without further
20 deportation proceedings.

21
22 SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or
23 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law of the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
24 valid and subsisting.

25
26 SECTION 7. *Repealing Clause.* - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
27 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or inconsistent
28 with the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

1 SECTION 8. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
2 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,