

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
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SENATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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SENATE

S. No. 2517

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

EXPLANATORY NOTE

It has become the usual practice of school children to take their daily meals in school canteens. It is a common knowledge that for school-age food consumers, what would appear most saleable are the common junks like chips, hotdogs, burgers, pizza, tacos, fries, soda drinks and the like. Normal entrepreneurial practice would naturally sell what is being demanded the most.

It is alarming to note that these type of foods taken by the children daily during the entire school year as regular meal or snack do not only fail to provide them with proper nutrients but have been the primal sources of diet related diseases like obesity, cancer, coronary heart disease and diabetes to name a few. It has also been a universal norm across the globe that children coming from either the first or third world countries do not get enough of important nutrients like iron, calcium, zinc, Vitamin A, Vitamin C and Folate required for an active mind and body.

Children's energy requirement increases rapidly because they are growing quickly and becoming more active. To achieve this requirement, foods which are high in energy and protein, should be taken as part of regular meals. Other nutrients are likewise needed to achieve the full potential of a child's body development which can only be attained through proper intake of nutritional food.

This piece of legislation seeks to address the problem by mandating food service providers in every school to limit the range of meal products they serve for breakfast, lunch and snack to food and drinks which will make a positive contribution to the nutrient needs of children by basing them on nutrient-based meal standards to be recommended by government experts in the field of nutrition.

I believe that it's high time for the government to undertake the much needed radical reform to advance this unfortunate situation by way of ascertaining that food supplied in school meals should be strictly limited to those fortified with the necessary vitamins and proteins for all school children while banning those that may be hazardous to health.

Government's vision in achieving its goal for a healthy citizenry could only be attained through proper nutrition and balance diet starting from the young age.

I encourage my colleagues to support the immediate passage of this bill.


MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Senator

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AN ACT

**TO IMPROVE THE NUTRITION QUALITY OF FOOD SERVED TO
PRIMARY AND SECONDARY SCHOOL STUDENTS IN SCHOOL
CANTEENS AND CAFETERIAS, PROVIDING PENALTIES THEREFORE
AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

*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 "***School Nutrition
and Balanced Diet Act of 2010***".

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is the policy of the State to promote, nurture and protect the health, nutrition and well-being of children in the society. The government is duty bound to address problems of common chronic diseases and other diet-related health problems that hit school children year in and year out by instilling a policy that will ensure that school children will be served with well balanced and nutritious meals.

SEC. 3. Definition of Terms. - For the purpose of this Act, the following shall mean:

1. Food Service Providers – shall refer to all canteens, cafeterias, food concessionaires, caterers and similar establishments including individuals involved in school meal services operating inside the premises of private and public primary and secondary schools.

2. Schools – shall refer to all private and public primary and secondary educational institutions.

3. Food Product – shall refer to any breakfast, lunch, and snack food meals including all forms of beverages and drinking products.

4. Institute – shall refer to the Food and Nutrition Research Institute under the Department of Science and Technology.

5. Nutrient-Based Meal Standard – shall primarily refer to the combinations of recommended and balanced nutrient content of an average meal of school children enough to provide them with protein, fat, saturated fat, carbohydrate, fiber, iron, zinc, calcium, Vitamin A, Vitamin C, folate, sodium, and other nutrients highly needed by school children as may be determined by the Institute.

SEC. 4. Coverage. – All primary and secondary educational institutions licensed and registered under the Department of Education shall be covered by this Act.

SEC. 5. Compulsory Incorporation of Nutrient-Based Standards on Meals. – Any provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding, all food service providers, are hereby required to prepare food products for sale in accordance with the nutritional specifications of nutrient-based standards on meals as provided for under this Act. All school board or authorities concerned shall adopt and enforce policy guidelines to their school service providers for the proper implementation of the nutrient-based standards on food products sold in schools throughout the day.

SEC. 6. Formulation of Nutrient-Based Meal Standards. - The Institute shall formulate, determine and set a benchmark on the sufficient amount of nutrient intakes of schoolchildren required for good health and growth. For this purpose, the institute shall come-up with an easy to understand Nutrition based Meal Standards that shall contain among others the recommended proportion of nutrient content and balanced diet for an average breakfast, lunch and snacks. Provided, however, that the Institute shall prepare sample meal sets to serve as reference basis for meal planning, covering the entire school days of the calendar year, which would meet the nutrient-based meal standards.

SEC. 7. Trainings on Food Preparations. – All catering staff directly and indirectly involved in the preparations and servings of meals in schools covered by this

Act, shall undergo training on good nutrition and menu planning to equip them with proper meal preparation skills that will comply with the Nutrition-based meal standards.

SEC. 8. *Banning of Unsafe Foods and Drinks.* – In order to ensure that food and drinks being sold over the school shall be exclusive to those that meet the nutrient-based standards, unsafe foods and drinks as determined by the Institute shall be perpetually banned from being sold inside the school premises.

SEC. 9. *Enforcement and Monitoring Agency.* – A multi agency committee composed of representatives from the Department of Education, Department of Health, Department of Science and Technology and the School Board concerned is hereby created to enforce and monitor the proper implementation and compliance of the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 10. *Penalties.* - Any person who violates any provision of this Act shall, upon conviction, be penalized by imprisonment of prison correccional in its maximum period up to prison mayor in its minimum period, or a fine of not less than Php200,000 nor more than Php500,000; or both such fine and imprisonment at the discretion of the court: *Provided however,* That if the violation is made by a corporation, association, or partnership, the penalty provided herein shall be imposed upon the directors, president, or managing partners; *Provided further,* That if the violation is committed by the Private or Public School, for not enforcing the provisions of Sections 5 and 8 hereof, they shall be charged administratively.

SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause.* – The provision of any law, which is inconsistent with the provisions of this act, is hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 12. *Separability Clause.* - If for any reason, any provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of this Act shall not be affected.

SEC. 13. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect immediately upon publication in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,