

FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES
Second Regular Session

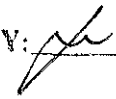


Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE

S. No. 2894

RECORDED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Philippine hog production is valued at Php161 billion pesos (\$3.5 billion) annually. Our country's consumption of pork is estimated to be at 1.357 million metric tons per annum in carcass weight equivalent (CWE). Pork supply is mostly for domestic food consumption which is about 98 percent, and the balance is manufactured into canned or processed meat. The derived consumption of pork in 2009 was 14.87 kilograms.

The local hog industry accounts for about 83 percent of the total livestock production and is equivalent to almost 15 percent of total value of agricultural production. As of January 2010, the total number of pigs is about 13.4 million heads, of which 71 percent are from backyard farms and 29 percent are being raised by commercial farms. The highest number of pigs can be found in the CALABARZON Cavite-Laguna-Batangas (1.76 million), followed by Western Visayas (1.65 million) and Central Luzon (1.43 million).

Hog raising in the Philippines has been a profitable business for Filipinos through the decades. Its popularity is evidently seen among backyards of rural families. An average Filipino family usually raises a small number of pigs to augment their daily needs. While both parents are busy with their work, children may help in raising a few piglets until they reach their marketable age.

Data from the Department of Agriculture indicate that in the past few years, about 60,000 out of the 300,000 sows in Central Luzon have died due to swine related diseases. The problem lies on the fact that our country has no proper diagnostic laboratory to identify the disease strains that affect our local hog raisers that is why our industry players do not know what vaccines to utilize in order to prevent the spread of such disease. To date, the swine industry in the country is still not capable of detecting which particular swine related disease that affect a particular province or region.

It is for this reason that this proposed measure seeks to establish a state-of-the-art diagnostic laboratory for swine related diseases in every region in order to empower the Department of Agriculture with the capability to properly identify the particular swine related disease that affect a particular region and recommend the appropriate vaccine to prevent the spread of such disease.


Furthermore, said diagnostic laboratory shall also maintain surveillance and shall monitor the diseases to determine their possible transmission to humans as well as other animals. The early detection of the diseases is critical to control the diseases, to avoid their transmission to humans and to limit the economic losses of the country.

Furthermore, the establishment of a diagnostic laboratory in every region is essential to a disease-free source of animal food products for consumers.

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


MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Senator 

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A STATE-OF-THE-ART DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY FOR SWINE-RELATED DISEASES IN EVERY REGION TO IDENTIFY DISEASES AFFECTING OUR LOCAL HOG INDUSTRY, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR 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 ***“Swine Disease Diagnostic Laboratory Act of 2011”***.

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. – It is hereby declared the policy of the State to develop and support the livestock industry in the country in order to promote food security in the country.

Towards this end, the State shall institute programs and enabling mechanisms to protect our country’s swine industry from various types of diseases that adversely affect the swine industry in the country. Early detection of the various types of diseases that affect the local hog/swine industry is critical in preventing the huge economic loss brought about by the spread of such diseases.

As such, the State shall establish a state-of-the-art diagnostic laboratory in every region in order to ensure food security in our provinces and provide a disease-free source of animal food products for our consumers.

SEC. 3. Establishment of a Diagnostic Laboratory for Local Hogs. – The Department of Agriculture (DA) is hereby mandated to establish a state-of-the art Diagnostic Laboratory in every region in order to proactively prevent the spread of swine-related diseases in our provinces. The state-of-the-art Diagnostic Laboratory shall be under the supervision and management of the Regional Offices of the Department of Agriculture. Said laboratory shall study and identify the disease strains that affect our

local hog industry and shall recommend the appropriate vaccines needed to address and stop the spread of such diseases.

SEC. 4. *Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Campaign.* -

Upon determination by the Department of Agriculture of a hog disease outbreak, the DA, in coordination with local government units, shall conduct a massive information, education and communication (IEC) campaign pertaining to the particular disease strain that affects a particular region, and shall recommend the appropriate preventive measures to be undertaken by hog raisers.

The information, education and communication (IEC) campaign, shall include, among others:

(a) the guidelines on the various measures to be undertaken by hog raisers in order to prevent the spread of such disease;

(b) raising public awareness on the specific strain of disease that affects the hog industry;

(c) the dissemination of publications and other resources on the prevention of the spread of the disease; and

(d) the raising of public awareness on the early detection and reporting in the event of occurrence of such diseases identified by our hog raisers.

SEC. 5. *Prevention of Conflict of Interest in the Research Process.* -

Within six (6) month from the date of effectivity of this Act, the Department of Agriculture (DA) shall issue the necessary standards, guidelines and regulations in order to ensure that there is no conflict of interest between the research agenda of the researchers and the manufacturers of vaccines and medicines for a particular disease that affect our hog industry.

The DA shall ensure the timely publication and dissemination of information of these guidelines and regulations in order to ensure that the various stakeholders in the hog industry all over the country are adequately informed.

SEC. 6. *Appropriation Clause.* - There is hereby appropriated the amount of Php50,000,000.000 pesos for the initial establishment of the Diagnostic Laboratory for Local Hogs. Thereafter, the amount necessary to implement the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriation of the Department of Agriculture (DA).

SEC. 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR).* - Within six (6) month from the date of its effectivity, the Department of Agriculture (DA), in coordination

with the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 8. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof not consistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 9. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part of this Act, or the application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held unconstitutional or invalid, the remainder of this Act shall not be affected thereby.

SEC. 10. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from the date of its complete publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,