
Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

AN ACT
TO CONDUCT A PILOT PROGRAM IN SUPPORT OF EFFORTS TO INCREASE
THE AMOUNT OF PURCHASES OF LOCAL FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES
FOR SCHOOLS BY GIVING CERTAIN ADMINISTRATIVE REGIONS THE
OPTION OF RECEIVING A GRANT FROM THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 2, Section 15 provides: "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them."

Noncommunicable diseases, especially cardiovascular diseases (CVDs), cancer, obesity and type 2 diabetes mellitus, reportedly kill more people every year than any other cause of death. Four factors in the epidemiology of these diseases – poor diet, physical inactivity, tobacco and alcohol use – are of overwhelming importance to public health. Fruit and vegetables are an important component of a healthy diet and, if consumed daily in sufficient amounts, could help prevent major diseases such as CVDs and certain cancers.¹

Thus, there is a need for legislative policies to promote and support fruit and vegetable consumption.

This bill seeks to conduct a pilot program in support of efforts to increase the amount of purchases of local fresh fruits and vegetables for schools and service institutions by giving certain administrative regions the option of receiving a grant from

¹ http://www.who.int/dietphysicalactivity/publications/fruit_vegetables_report.pdf.

the Secretary of Agriculture. With this bill, schools would be allowed to spend some of the government funding they receive to buy local food from local farmers.²

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² This bill was originally filed during the Fifteenth Congress, Second Regular Session.

1 (4) Reporting Requirements. –

2 (A) School Requirement. – Schools in a participating region shall keep
3 records of purchases of fresh fruits and vegetables made using the grant funds and
4 report such records to the region.

5 (B) Region Requirement. – Each participating region shall submit to the
6 Secretary a report on the success of the pilot program in the region, including
7 information on the amount and value of each type of fresh fruit and vegetable
8 purchased by the region; and the benefit provided by such purchases in conducting
9 the school food service in the region, including meeting school meal requirements.

10 SECTION 3. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act shall be declared
11 unconstitutional, any other provision not affected thereby shall remain in full force and
12 effect.

13 SECTION 4. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations,
14 or parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

15 SECTION 5. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
16 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,

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