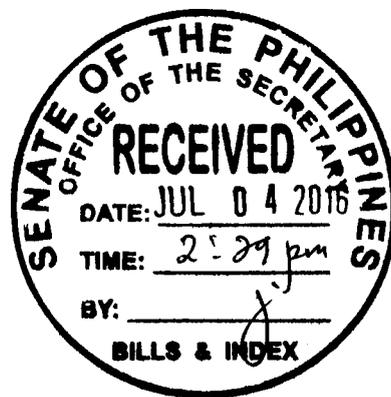


SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)



SENATE
S.B. No. 357

Introduced by: Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" A. Aquino IV

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A SYSTEM OF REDISTRIBUTING AND RECYCLING FOOD WASTE TO PROMOTE FOOD SECURITY

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Around one third of the food produced globally, equivalent to 1.3 billion tons or worth US\$1 trillion (around P46 trillion), is wasted annually according to the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). There are both economic and environmental costs to this wastage. The forests and biodiversity cleared to create farmlands, along with the soils, energy, water, fertilizer, and labor utilized to produce food that is never eaten are also put to waste. A total of 28% of the global agricultural region is used to produce food that will eventually go to waste, according to the World Resources Institute. Furthermore, most of the greenhouse gas emissions are generated by food disposed of in landfills. With around 1 in 4 calories yielded remaining unconsumed, and a population of around 870 million without equitable access to food resources daily, this absurd disjuncture deems moral implications to this profound amount of discarded food.

The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) defines food loss as the decrease in the amount or nutritional quality of food that was intended for human consumption. FAO says that more than 40% of food loss in developing countries such as the Philippines happens before consumption—during production, postharvest, and processing. The International Rice Research Institute (IRRI) reports that rice losses reach around 15% in the postharvest stage. In addition, an estimated 296,869 metric tons of rice, equivalent to P7.3 billion, is wasted in the country according to the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PRRI). The discarded amount could have fed more than 2 million Filipinos.

The food waste reduction hierarchy set by the United States Environmental Protection Agency (US EPA) shows, through an inverted triangular diagram, the most preferred to the least preferred actions that can be done with food waste. Topmost is source reduction, followed by donation to the hungry, diversion to animal feed, recovering energy, creating compost, and at the bottom is disposal of food in landfills.

As a member-state to the United Nations and a country bound to the Sustainable Development Goals that forward human rights and social justice, it is highly essential for the

Government to facilitate in redirecting surplus to those who do not have food on their plates.

There is more than enough food in the world for everyone. By getting food-related businesses to donate their surplus food to food distribution charities, thus providing food security to those without access to their next meal, this bill seeks to ultimately end the cycle of having food end up in the trash instead of stomachs. The bill also demands the involvement of private individuals and their local governments in efficiently arriving at a segregation campaign to have household food waste readily available for recycling into fertilizer or compost. Finally, the provision of this bill on the National Anti-Food Waste Campaign addresses the proper information dissemination on the ways by which Filipinos can follow the food waste reduction hierarchy.

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



Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" A. Aquino IV

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

1 **Section 1. Short Title.** — This Act shall be known as the "Zero Food Waste Act."

2 **Section 2. Declaration of Policy.** — The State recognizes that each person has a right to an
3 adequate standard of living, including to sufficient food. It is hereby declared a policy of the State to
4 safeguard food security, end hunger, and promote the efficient use of the country's food resources.

5 Towards this end, the State shall adopt a system to promote, facilitate, and ensure the
6 reduction of food waste through redistribution and recycling. The massive amount of food wasted
7 and the considerable number of people going hungry daily is a breach that this Act intends to
8 correct.

9 **Section 3. Definition of Terms.** — As used in this Act, the following terms shall mean:

- 10 a. *Food insecure* – persons or groups of persons who have difficulty producing or
11 purchasing food to avoid hunger.
12 b. *Edible food waste* – food discarded in the retail and consumption stages, determined to
13 be fit for consumption based on standards set by the National Nutrition Council.
14 c. *Food waste reduction* – the decrease of food waste generation, the redistribution of
15 food waste to the food insecure or the recycling of food as fertilizer or compost.
16 d. *Food-related businesses* – public and private businesses involved in the manufacturing
17 and processing of food products (i.e. food manufacturers), private businesses involved in
18 the wholesaling and retailing of food products (i.e. supermarkets), and private
19 businesses involved in serving food products (i.e. restaurants, cafeterias, and hotels).
20 e. *Food banks* – non-profit, charitable or other social mission-driven organizations that
21 distribute food to the food insecure.
22 f. *Inedible food waste* – food discarded in the retail and consumption stages, determined
23 to be unfit for consumption based on standards set by the National Nutrition Council.
24 g. *Waste management and recycling enterprises* – organizations that manage inedible food
25 waste by converting these into fertilizers or compost.

26 **Section 4. National Zero Food Waste Campaign.** — The National Nutrition Council (NNC), in
27 close coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the

1 Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Department of Education (DepEd), the
2 Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the Department of Health (DOH), other concerned agencies
3 and Local Government Units (LGUs), is hereby tasked to undertake a National Zero Food Waste
4 Campaign to raise awareness about the consequences of wasted food, the Zero Food Waste Act, and
5 the food waste reduction efforts required of food-related businesses and households through the
6 LGUs. The Campaign shall also promote the food waste reduction hierarchy, and recommend means
7 of reducing individual food waste.

8 DepEd shall have the duty to ensure that the education curriculum includes materials on the
9 current global and national food waste situation, on ways to reduce food waste, on national and
10 local food waste prevention programs, and regarding the provisions of this Act. DTI shall encourage
11 food-related businesses to purchase lower-price, non-standard size or shape produce to be used in
12 their food products.

13 **Section 5. Food-related Business Waste Reduction Strategy.** — Food-related businesses
14 such as food manufacturers, supermarkets, restaurants, cafeterias, and hotels are hereby required
15 to:

- 16 a. Submit an initial report to the DSWD and DENR that contains data on the amount (in
17 tons) of its edible and inedible food waste in the past year, organized according to the
18 manner of disposal, including donation, composting or discarding.
- 19 b. Submit an annual report to the DSWD and DENR that contains data on the amount (in
20 tons) of its edible and inedible food waste in the immediately precedent year, organized
21 according to the manner of disposal, including donation, composting, or discarding.
- 22 c. Enter into a contract with food banks to redistribute edible food waste to the food
23 insecure.
- 24 d. Shoulder the costs of transporting edible food waste from business location to the food
25 bank's warehouse or distribution center.
- 26 e. Ensure that edible food waste is unadulterated and in good condition upon arrival at the
27 food bank's distribution center.
- 28 f. Enter into a contract with waste management and recycling enterprises to recycle
29 inedible food waste into fertilizer or compost.
- 30 g. Shoulder the costs of transporting inedible food waste from collection areas to waste
31 management sites.
- 32 h. Reach and maintain food waste levels at the target set by the DENR.

33 **Section 6. National Zero Food Waste Scheme.** — DSWD, as the coordinating agency
34 between the food businesses and food banks, shall:

- 35 a. Provide guidelines and standards for the collection, storage, and distribution of edible
36 food donated to food banks.
- 37 b. Ensure that food businesses have entered into contracts with food banks and issue
38 acceptance certificates to food businesses.
- 39 c. Promote linkages between food banks and LGUs to create a community-based food
40 distribution system for the food insecure.
- 41 d. Create a Self-Sufficiency Program that will provide the food insecure with skills training
42 on managing food banks and livelihood programs to avoid the dependence on donation
43 solely.

1 **Section 7. Household and Local Government Unit Waste Reduction Strategy.** — LGUs are
2 hereby required to:

- 3 a. Submit an initial report that contains data on the amount (in tons) of inedible food
4 waste that can be recycled as raw material for fertilizers or compost to DENR.
- 5 b. Submit an annual report that contains data on the amount (in tons) of inedible food
6 waste that has been recycled as raw material for fertilizers or compost to the DENR.
- 7 c. Initiate waste segregation efforts per household through local campaigns.
- 8 d. Enter into a contract with waste management and recycling enterprises to recycle
9 inedible food waste from households into fertilizer or compost.
- 10 e. Shoulder the costs of transporting inedible food waste from collection areas to waste
11 management sites.
- 12 f. Reach and maintain inedible food waste levels at the target set by DENR.

13 **Section 8. Penal Provisions/Penalties.** — The penalty of *prision correccional* will be imposed
14 on any individual, private or public, who deliberately makes food waste unfit for consumption. The
15 same penalty is applicable to private or public actors who prevent the redirection of edible food
16 waste to food banks or inedible food waste to waste management and recycling enterprises.

17 **Section 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** — Within sixty (60) days from the
18 effectivity of this Act, the National Nutrition Council, in coordination with the Department of Social
19 Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR),
20 the Department of Education (DepEd), the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the Department
21 of Health (DOH), and other relevant government agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules and
22 regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

23 **Section 10. Periodic Review.** — The implementing agencies shall submit an annual report to
24 Congress on the progress in the implementation of this Act.

25 **Section 11. Appropriations.** — The funds needed to implement this Act shall be included in
26 the annual General Appropriations Act.

27 **Section 12. Separability Clause.** — Should any provision herein be declared unconstitutional,
28 the same shall not affect the validity of the other provisions of this Act.

29 **Section 13. Repealing Clause.** — All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or other
30 issuances or parts inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified
31 accordingly.

32 **Section 14. Effectivity.** — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in
33 the Official Gazette or in any two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

34 *Approved,*