

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

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SENATE
S. B. 1495

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 2 provides:

Section 15. The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.

Meat and meat products are an important source of the nation's total supply of food. It is essential in the public interest that the health and welfare of consumers be protected by assuring that imported meat food products offered for retail sale bear a label that identifies its country of origin.

This bill requires the labeling of imported meat and meat products, in order to protect the public against deceptive, unfair and unconscionable sales of imported meat food products in the country.

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

**AN ACT
TO REQUIRE THE LABELING OF IMPORTED MEAT AND MEAT FOOD
PRODUCTS**

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 "Meat Labeling Act."

SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is the policy of the State to protect the interests of the consumer against deceptive, unfair, and unconscionable sales acts and practices, and to adopt measures to insure pure and safe supply of imported meat food products in the country.

SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* - For purposes of this Act, the term:

- (1) "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture.
- (2) "Country of origin" means the country or countries in which an animal is raised before slaughter.
- (3) "Label" means display of written, printed or graphic matter affixed to any imported meat or meat food products, its immediate container, or other suitable material affixed for the purpose of giving information as to identify its country of origin:
- (4) "Beef" means meat produced from cattle (including veal).
- (5) "Pork" means meat produced from hogs.
- (6) "Lamb" means meat, other than mutton, produced from sheep.
- (7) "Imported beef" means beef that is not Philippine beef, whether or not the

beef is graded with a quality grade issued by the Secretary.

(8) "Imported pork" means pork that is not Philippine pork.

(9) "Imported lamb" means lamb that is not Philippine lamb, whether or not the lamb is graded with a quality grade issued by the Secretary.

(10) "Philippine Beef" means beef produced from cattle slaughtered in the Philippines. Exclusion. - The term "Philippine beef" does not include beef produced from cattle imported into the Philippines in sealed trucks for slaughter.

(11) "Philippine Pork" means pork produced from hogs slaughtered in the Philippines. Exclusion. - The term "Philippine pork" does not include pork produced from hogs imported into the Philippines in sealed trucks for slaughter.

(12) "Philippine Lamb" means lamb produced from sheep slaughtered in the Philippines. Exclusion. - The term "Philippine lamb" does not include lamb produced from sheep imported into the Philippines in sealed trucks for slaughter.

SECTION 4. *Labeling of imported meat and meat food products.* -

(1) Labeling Required-

(a) Imported meat and meat food product imported into the Philippines shall bear or are accompanied by labeling that identifies the country of origin of the animal that is the source of the imported carcass, part thereof, or meat or is part of the contents of the imported meat food product.

(b) Imported meat food product prepared in the Philippines using any carcass, part thereof, or meat imported into the Philippines shall bear or is accompanied by labeling that identifies the country of origin of the animal that is the source of the imported carcass, part thereof, or meat.

(2) Mandatory Labeling- The Secretary shall provide by regulation that the following offered for retail sale bear a label that identifies its country of origin:

(a) Muscle cuts of Philippine beef, Philippine pork, Philippine lamb, imported beef, imported lamb, and imported pork.

(b) Ground beef, ground lamb, and ground pork..

(3) Audit Verification System for Philippine and Imported Muscle Cuts of Beef, Lamb, and Pork and Ground Beef, Lamb, and Pork-The Secretary may require any person that prepares, stores, handles, or distributes muscle cuts of Philippine beef, imported beef, Philippine lamb, imported lamb, Philippine pork, imported pork, ground beef, ground lamb, ground pork for retail sale maintain a verifiable recordkeeping audit trail that will permit the Secretary to ensure compliance with the regulations promulgated under subsection (1).

SECTION 5. *Regulations.* – Not later than one (1) year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall promulgate final regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 6. *Penalties.* – Any person who shall violate any provision of this Act shall upon conviction, be subject to a fine of not less than One Thousand Pesos (P1,000.00) but not more than Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00) or imprisonment of not less than two (2) months but not more than one (1), or both upon the discretion of the court. If the offender is an alien, he shall be deported after service of sentence and payment of fine without further deportation proceedings.

SECTION 7. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part thereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law of the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 8. *Repealing Clause.* - Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to, or inconsistent with, the provisions of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SECTION 9. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved.

FN: S.B. 1685