

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

SENATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

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SENATE
S. B. No. 1690

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 2, Section 15, provides:

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

Consumers have the right to know the country of origin of the purchase. However, there is no law requiring that imported agricultural commodities offered for retail sale bear a label identify their country of origin.

The label that identifies the perishable agricultural commodities' country of origin would enable the consumers to make decisions about food safety concerns, or if they have concerns about pesticide, or environmental practices in specific countries.

This bill seeks to require country-of-origin labeling of perishable agricultural commodities imported into the Philippines and to establish penalties for violations of the labeling requirements.


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

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AN ACT
TO REQUIRE COUNTRY OF ORIGIN LABELING OF PERISHABLE AGRICULTURAL
COMMODITIES IMPORTED INTO THE PHILIPPINES AND TO ESTABLISH PENALTIES FOR
VIOLATIONS OF THE LABELING REQUIREMENTS

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Imported Produce Labeling Act.”

SECTION 2. *Definitions.* – For purposes of this Act, the term:

- (1) “Perishable Agricultural Commodity” means any of the following, whether or not frozen or packed in ice: Fresh fruits and fresh vegetables of every kind and character.
- (2) “Retailer” means person engaged in the business of selling consumer products directly to consumers.

SECTION 3. *Indication of Country of Origin of Imported Perishable Agricultural Commodities.*–

(1) NOTICE OF COUNTRY OF ORIGIN REQUIRED – A retailer of a perishable agricultural commodity into the Philippines shall inform consumers, at the final point of sale of the perishable agricultural commodity to consumers, of the country of origin of the perishable agricultural commodity.

(2) METHOD OF NOTIFICATION–

(a) IN GENERAL - The information required by subsection (1) may be provided to consumers by means of a label, stamp, mark, placard, or other clear and visible sign on the imported perishable agricultural commodity or on the package, display, holding unit, or bin containing the commodity at the final point of sale to consumers.

(b) LABELED COMMODITIES- If the imported perishable agricultural commodity is already individually labeled regarding country of origin by the packer, importer, or another

person, the retailer shall not be required to provide any additional information to comply with this Section.

(3) APPLICATION OF SECTION – This Act shall apply with respect to a perishable agricultural commodity imported into the Philippines after the end of the 6-month period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act.

SECTION 4. *Regulations.* – Not later than one (1) year after the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Agriculture shall promulgate rules and regulations to carry out the provisions on this Act.

SECTION 5. *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 (10,000.00) or imprisonment of not less than two (2) months but not more than one (1) year, 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 6. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law of the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SECTION 7. *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 8. *Effectivity Clause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,