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SENATE
Senate Bill No. 1650

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by: **Senator Raffy T. Tulfo**

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

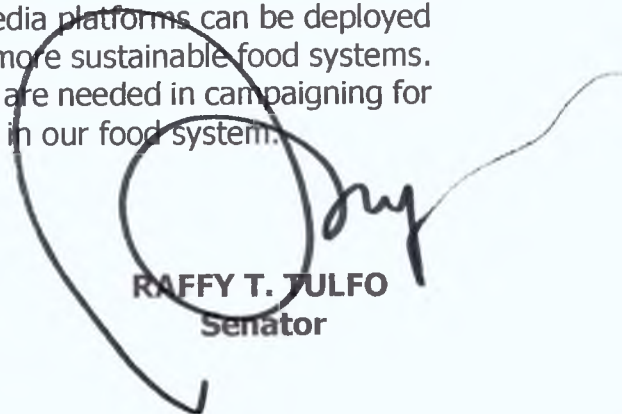
Explanatory Note

Food waste refers to food that is fit for consumption but consciously discarded at the retail or consumption phases. It is not just a social or humanitarian concern, but it is an environmental one. When food is wasted, we also waste all the energy and water it takes to grow, harvest, transport, and package it. It contributes to climate change since food left in landfills, use releases methane, a powerful greenhouse gas 25 times stronger than carbon dioxide. Methane gas lingers for 12 years and traps heat from the sun. Our irresponsible use of food products has adverse impact on the physical land itself. Moreover, it harms the biodiversity of the environment's ecosystem.

According to the United National on Sustainable Development, too much food is being lost or wasted in the world. Despite, ranking 69TH in the Global Hunger Index , 86.2% of the biodegradable waste of the Philippines is food waste due to inadequate transportation and storage facilities. The World Wildlife Fund-Phils. Reported that an estimated 2, 175 tons of food scraps in Metro-Manila alone are thrown away daily. Food waste undermines the sustainability of our food systems. Our food systems cannot be resilient if they are not sustainable. Hence, there is a necessity to adopt integrated approaches designed to reduce food waste. Global and local measures are necessary to maximize the use of the food we produce. The introduction of technologies, innovative solutions, new ways of working and good practices designed to manage the quality of food so to reduce food waste are key to transformative change.

Globally, reducing food waste is deemed as a key initiative in achieving a sustainable food future.

This bill therefore seeks to mitigate the food waste in our country through the creation of a National Zero Food Waste Campaign. The campaign shall focus on responsible production and consumption of food. Various social media platforms can be deployed to promote awareness around food waste and create more sustainable food systems. The concerted efforts of various government agencies are needed in campaigning for food security until it is integrated and institutionalized in our food system.

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Raffy T. Tulfo', is written over the text and extends to the right edge of the page.

RAFFY T. TULFO
Senator

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

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

12
13 **SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.** - As used in this Act, the following terms shall mean:

14
15 a. Food insecure - persons or groups who have difficulty producing or
16 purchasing food to avoid hunger.

17
18 b. Edible food waste - food discarded in the retail and consumption stages,
19 determined to be fit for consumption based on standards set by the National Nutrition
20 Council.

21
22 c. Food waste reduction- the decrease of food waste generation, the
23 redistribution of food waste to the food insecure or the recycling of food as fertilizer
24 or compost.

25
26 d. Food-related business - public and private businesses involved in the
27 manufacturing and processing of food products (i.e. food manufacturers), private

1 businesses involved the wholesaling and retailing of food products (i.e. supermarkets),
2 and private businesses involved in serving food products (i.e. restaurants, cafeterias,
3 and hotels).

4
5 e. Food banks - non-profit, charitable or other social mission-driven
6 organizations that distribute food to the food insecure.

7 f. Inedible food waste - food discarded in the retail and consumption stages,
8 determined to be unfit for consumption based on standards set by the National
9 Nutrition Council.

10
11 e. Waste management and recycling enterprises - organizations that manage
12 inedible food waste by converting these into fertilizers or compost.

13
14 **SEC. 4. National Zero Food Waste Campaign.** - The National Nutrition Council
15 (NNC) in close coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural
16 Resources (DENR), the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD),
17 the Department of Education (DepEd), the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI),
18 the Department of Health (DOH), and other concerned agencies and Local
19 Government Units (LGUs), is hereby tasked to undertake a National Zero Food Waste
20 Campaign, and the food waste reduction efforts required of food-related businesses
21 and households through LGUs. The Campaign shall also promote the food waste
22 reduction hierarchy, and recommend means of reducing individual food waste.

23
24 DepEd shall have the duty to ensure that the education curriculum includes
25 materials on the current global and national food waste situation, on ways to reduce
26 food waste, on national and local food waste prevention programs, and regarding the
27 provisions of this Act. TI shall encourage food-related business to purchase lower-
28 price, non-standard size or shape produce to be used in their food products.

29
30 **SEC. 5. Food-related Business Waste Reduction Strategy.** - Food-related
31 businesses such as food manufacturers, supermarkets, restaurants, cafeterias, and
32 hotels are hereby required to:

33 a. Submit an initial report to the DSWD and DENR that contains data on the
34 amount (in tons) of its edible and inedible food waste in the past year,
35 organized according to the manner of disposal, including donation,
36 composting or discarding;

37
38 b. . Submit an annual report to the DSWD and DEN that contains data on the
39 amount (in tons) of its edible and inedible food waste in the immediately precedent
40 year, organized according to the manner of disposal, including donation, composting
41 or discarding;

42
43 c. Enter into a contract with food banks to redistribute edible food waste to
44 the food insecure;

- 1 d. Shoulder the costs of transporting edible food waste from business location
2 to the food bank's warehouse or distribution center;
- 3
- 4 e. Ensure that the edible food waste is unadulterated and in good condition
5 upon arrival at the food bank's distribution center;
- 6
- 7 f. Enter into a contract with waste management and recycling enterprises to
8 recycle inedible food waste into fertilizer or compost;
- 9
- 10
- 11 g. Shoulder the costs of transporting inedible food waste from collection areas
12 to waste management sites; and
- 13
- 14 h. Reach and maintain food waste levels at the target set by the DENR.
- 15

16 **SEC. 6. National Zero Food Waste Scheme.** - DSWD, as the coordinating agency
17 between the food business and food banks, shall:

- 18 a. Provide guidelines and standards for the collection, storage, and distribution of
19 edible food donated to food banks;
- 20 b. Ensure that food businesses have entered into contracts with food banks and
21 issue acceptance certificates to food businesses;
- 22 c. Promote linkages between food banks and LGUs to create a community-based
23 food distribution system for the food insecure; and
- 24 d. Create a Self-Sufficiency Program that will provide the food insecure with skills
25 training on managing food banks and livelihood programs to avoid the dependence
26 on donation solely.
- 27

28 **SEC. 7. Household and Local Government Unit Waste Reduction Strategy.**

29 - LGUs are hereby required to:

- 30 a. Submit an initial report that contains data on the amount (in tons) of inedible
31 food waste that can be recycled as raw material for fertilizers or compost to the DENR;
- 32
- 33 b. Submit an annual report that contains data on the amount (in tons) of
34 inedible food waste that can be recycled as raw material for fertilizers or compost to
35 the DENR;
- 36
- 37 c. Initiate waste segregation efforts per household through local campaigns;
- 38
- 39 d. Enter into a contract with waste management and recycling enterprises to
40 recycle inedible food waste from households into fertilizer or compost;
- 41
- 42 e. Shoulder the costs of transporting inedible food waste from collection areas
43 to waste management sites; and
- 44
- 45 f. Reach and maintain inedible food waste levels at the target set by DENR.
- 46
- 47

1 **SEC. 8. *Tax Incentive*** -Food related businesses that donate edible food to food
2 banks shall be exempt from donor's tax and the same shall be considered as an
3 allowable deduction from their gross income in accordance with the provisions of the
4 National Internal Revenue Code, as amended.

5
6 **SEC. 9. *Penal Provisions/Penalties.*** - The penalty of *prison correccional* will be
7 imposed on any individual, private or public, who deliberately makes food waste unfit
8 for consumption. The same penalty is applicable to private or public actors who
9 prevent the redirection of edible food waste to food banks or inedible food waste to
10 waste management and recycling enterprises.

11
12 **SEC. 10. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - Within sixty (60) days from the
13 effectivity of this Act, the NNC, in coordination with the DSWD, DENR, DepEd, DTI,
14 DOH, and other relevant government agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules
15 and regulations

Approved,