

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

MAY 15 1911

SENATE
S. No. 2244

RECEIVED BY: *[Signature]*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Agri-bioterrorism is the act of knowingly or maliciously using biological agents as weapons against the agricultural industry and the food supply. It would be an attack against one of the Philippines' most vital industries and is certainly a cause for concern as it is currently not contemplated in law as a crime. An attack against the agricultural industry would be financially devastating and would have the effect of severely reducing the public's faith in the quality of the food supply, whether the food was grown in the Philippines or elsewhere.

The economic damages caused by the accidental outbreaks of animal disease, such as the foot-and-mouth disease, bird flu, and mad cow disease are immense. Additionally, the deliberate introduction of fungi, bacteria, or pests could have an equally destructive effect. Given that a significant percent of the population already suffer from hunger and malnourishment, any bioterrorism attack would affect millions of lives, jobs and cause severe dislocations in the Philippines food supply. Hence, this bill seeks to define and penalize the crime of agri-bioterrorism.

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
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8 MAY -5 P.M.

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AN ACT
DEFINING AND PENALIZING THE CRIME OF AGRI-BIOTERRORISM

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

SECTION 1. *Crime of Agri-Bioterrorism.* – A person is guilty of agri-bioterrorism when with intent to intimidate or coerce a civilian population, influence the policy of a unit of government by intimidation or coercion, or affect the conduct of a unit of government, he or she:

(A) Designs, develops and utilizes a process or processes to genetically alter plant life used for human consumption with the intent to render said plant life toxic or unsuitable for human or livestock consumption;

(B) Intentionally introduces an animal virus, pathogen, or bacteria which would kill livestock or render the by products of such livestock unusable for human consumption;

(C) Intentionally defiles, corrupts or alters the food or farm product with the intent to sicken or kill persons or animals; or

(D) Intentionally manufactures, designs, or alters genetic material to result in a pathogen, virus or bacteria capable of disrupting or destroying the food or farm product.

SECTION 2. *Penalties.* – Any person committing an act which constitutes agri-bioterrorism as defined in the previous section shall be punishable by a penalty of imprisonment ranging from *reclusion temporal* to life imprisonment, or a fine ranging from Five Hundred Thousand Pesos (P500,000.00) to One Million Pesos (P1,000,000.00), or both, at the discretion of the court, taking into consideration all attending circumstances.

1 SECTION 3. *Aggravating Circumstances.* – The penalties described in the previous
2 section shall be imposed in the maximum if the act of agri-bioterrorism results in the following
3 circumstances as a result of the victim’s consumption or use of the altered or contaminated
4 agricultural, livestock, food or farm product:

- 5 (A) Death;
- 6 (B) Insanity or psychological damage the same; and
- 7 (C) Permanent physical disfigurement or permanent disability.

8 SECTION 4. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or
9 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
10 valid and subsisting.

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

13 Approved,

/rgs