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SENATE
S. No. 1588

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Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 13, Section 11 provides that:

SEC. 11. The State shall adopt and integrated and comprehensive approach to health development which shall endeavor to make essential goods, health and other social services available to all the people at affordable cost. There shall be a priority for the needs of the underprivileged, sick, elderly, disabled, women and children. The State shall endeavor to provide free medical care to paupers.

Nutrition has always been behind hunger-alleviation in terms of priority. As many of our countrymen suffer hunger, we often neglect to look into the nutritional value of our food and eat anything that can fill our empty stomachs regardless if it truly provides us with the nourishment that our body needs. We should endeavor to dispel the common fallacy that nutritious foods are expensive.

Aside from public education, we can also show our concern over nutrition through our various feeding programs. We can also regulate the foods that are being served in our public schools which cater to our children. By making the people involved in the food and beverage industry conscious of our nutrition standards, we would be able to help the recipient of their services to get proper nutrition. The state should establish a policy that proper nutrition goes side by side with hunger alleviation and that good health is not a monopoly of the rich.

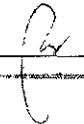
This bill seeks to establish a nutritional standard for our public schools and feeding and food subsidy programs. This bill also mandates the Department of Trade and Industry to make nutritious foods easily identifiable in our markets.¹

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

¹ This bill was originally filed in the Fourteenth Congress, Second Regular Session

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1 AN ACT
2 TO ESTABLISH NUTRITION STANDARDS FOR SCHOOLS
3

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

6 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Nutrition Standard
7 Establishment Act.”

8 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It shall be the policy of the State to encourage good
9 health through consumption of foods that meet nutritional standards. The State shall endeavor to
10 make nutritious food affordable and accessible to everyone.

11 SECTION 3. *Definitions.* – The purposes of this Act the term –

12 A. ESTABLISHED NUTRITION STANDARDS - means nutrition standards for
13 competitive foods and beverages in schools described in the report of the National
14 Nutrition Council;

15 B. NUTRITION STANDARDS - means the nutrition standards for competitive
16 foods and beverages in schools;

17 C. UPDATED NUTRITION STANDARDS - means the nutrition standards used as
18 the basis for regulations promulgated under this Act.

19 SECTION 4. *Proposed Regulations Based On Established Nutrition Standards.* – Not
20 later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the National Nutrition Council (NNC)
21 shall promulgate proposed regulations to define “foods of minimal nutritional value” consistent

1 with the established nutrition standards. Such regulation shall highlight affordable foods that
2 meet the minimal nutritional value.

3 The definition of “foods of minimal nutritional value” shall apply to all foods and
4 beverages sold on the school campus at any time during the school day.

5 SECTION 5. *Implementation Of Regulations Based On Established Nutrition Standards.*

6 – Except as provided in this Act, the final regulations described in Section 3 shall take effect at
7 the beginning of the school year following the date on which the regulations are finalized.

8 If the regulations are finalized on a date that is not more than 60 days before the
9 beginning of the school year, the regulations shall take effect at the beginning of the following
10 school year.

11 SECTION 6. *Recommendations for Revised Nutrition Standards.* – Not later than 2 years

12 after the date of enactment of this Act, and not less than every 5 years thereafter, the NNC shall
13 enter into an arrangement with the National Institutes of Health – University of the Philippines
14 Manila (NIH-UPM) under which the NIH-UPM shall conduct a study to develop
15 recommendations regarding necessary updates for nutrition standards to ensure that—

16 A. the most current scientific knowledge (as of the date of the study) is included in
17 information used to establish the nutrition standards; and

18 B. the nutrition standards are consistent with the current dietary guidelines (as of the
19 date of the study), with specifications for different age groups and other segments of
20 the population.

21 SECTION 7. *Report.* - The NIH-UPM shall prepare and submit a report containing the
22 recommendations described in Section 5 to the NNC, appropriate committees of Congress, and
23 the general public.

24 SECTION 8. *Regulations Based On Updated Nutrition Standards.* – Not later than 3
25 months after receiving a report under Section 6, the NNC shall promulgate regulations to revise

1 the definition described in Section 3, taking into consideration the recommendations for nutrition
2 standards contained in the report.

3 SECTION 9. *Use.* – All government agencies shall take into consideration the established
4 nutrition standards or updated nutrition standards, as appropriate, during the proposal and
5 issuance of any regulation for any government program that provides or subsidizes foods or
6 beverages.

7 SECTION 10. *User Friendly Identification System.* – Not later than 12 months after the
8 date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Trade and Industry, after consultation with the
9 NNC, shall establish a user friendly identification system for identifying foods and beverages
10 that meet the established nutrition standards or updated nutrition standards, as appropriate.

11 SECTION 11. *Appropriations.* – To carry out the provisions of this Act, such amount as
12 hereby necessary is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National Treasury.

13 SECTION 12. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or
14 unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain
15 valid and subsisting.

16 SECTION 13. *Repealing Clause.* – Any law, presidential decree or issuance, executive
17 order, letter of instruction, administrative order, rule or regulation contrary to or is inconsistent
18 with the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified, or amended accordingly.

19 SECTION 14. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
20 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

21 Approved,