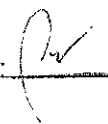


FIFTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

10 JUL 20 AM 58

SENATE
S. No. 1676

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is the first country to allow the first biotech food crop to be commercially planted in Asia. The Department of Agriculture approved in December 2002 the propagation and importation of Bt corn – the first genetically modified crop approved for field testing in the country. The Department of Agriculture claims that Bt corn may increase corn yields by as much as 40% and decrease production cost by eliminating the need for commercial pesticides.

On the other hand, those opposed to Genetically Modified (GM) crops claim that it goes against the natural evolution of crops and have not yet been proven to be safe for humans and the environment. Furthermore, they fear that once released into the environment, their possible effects would be irreversible.

We should begin a process of having Genetically Modified Organisms (GMO) registered and have the Department of Agriculture create a geographic information system so that policymakers and consumers can see where our GMO crops are being planted and what types of crops are being grown per region. *


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO


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

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A GENETICALLY MODIFIED ORGANISM REGISTRY

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

SECTION 1. *Genetically Modified Organism.* As used in this Act, “genetically modified organism” shall mean:

A. An organism that has been altered at the molecular or cellular level by means that are not possible under natural conditions or processes, including recombinant DNA and RNA techniques, cell fusion, microencapsulating, macroencapsulation, gene deletion and doubling, introduction of a foreign gene, and a process that changes the positions of genes, other than a means consisting exclusively of breeding, conjugation, fermentation, hybridization, in vitro fertilization, or tissue culture; and

B. An organism made through sexual or asexual reproduction, or both, involving an organism described in paragraph A of this section, if possessing any of the altered molecular or cellular characteristics of the organism so described.

SECTION 2. *GMO Registry.* The Department of Agriculture shall establish and maintain a registry of genetically modified organisms used by companies and institutions of higher learning for the purposes of research and in any of their agriculture related programs. The information included in such registry shall be made available to the public, upon request, in written and electronic form on the department’s internet website.

1 SECTION 3. *GMO location.* The Department, as part of maintaining the registry
2 required by this Act, shall establish maps of each region of the country in which genetically
3 modified organisms are used, stating their exact location, type of organism, and use.

4
5 SECTION 4. *Registration.* Subject to the rules and regulations to be promulgated by
6 the Department of Agriculture, all companies and institutions of higher education which uses or
7 possesses genetically modified organisms for the purpose of research or in any of its agriculture
8 related programs, shall register all such organisms with the Department. Each person or entity
9 required to register its genetically modified organisms pursuant to this Act shall include
10 information on how it uses such organisms, including but not limited to the exact agricultural
11 product or crop upon which a genetically modified organism has an effect

12 SECTION 5. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations or parts
13 thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified
14 accordingly.

15 SECTION 6. *Separability Clause.* – If, for any reason, any provision of this Act is
16 declared to be unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions hereof which are not
17 affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

18 SECTION 7. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days
19 following its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

20 Approved,