

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

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

10 JUL 21 P 1:45

SENATE
S. No. 1787

RECEIVED BY: W

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 13, Section 12, provides:

The State shall establish and maintain an effective food and drug regulatory system and undertake appropriate health manpower development and research, responsive to the country's health needs and problems.

This bill requires that packaged meat treated with an additive, colorant, or any other method to enhance its appearance include a clear, conspicuous, and easily readable label on the packaging stating those details, and advising the consumer to check the packing date to determine its freshness. Additives such as carbon monoxide, vitamin E, and colorants are sometimes used so that meat appears fresher than it is. This practice can mask spoilage, and lead to consumers purchasing meat which is not as fresh as they believe.¹

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
act

¹ This bill was originally filed in the third regular session of the 14th Congress.

10 JUL 21 P4:45

SENATE
S. No. 1787

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

1 AN ACT
2 REQUIRING MEAT PACKERS TO DISCLOSE THE ADDITIVES THAT THEY
3 PLACE IN THEIR PRODUCTS

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

4 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be referred to as the “Meat Additive
5 Disclosure Act.”

6 SECTION 2. *Packaging Requirement.* – Any person who packages meat for sale
7 which has been treated using an additive, colorant, or any other method to enhance the
8 appearance of the meat, including but not limited to carbon monoxide, vitamin E, or any
9 other substance either approved or not by the Bureau of Food and Drugs to improve the
10 appearance of the meat, shall include a clear, conspicuous, and easily readable label on
11 the packaging stating:

12 THIS MEAT HAS BEEN TREATED TO ENHANCE ITS
13 APPEARANCE. CHECK PACKING DATE TO DETERMINE
14 FRESHNESS.

15 SECTION 3. *Penalty for non-observance.* – The business license of the meat
16 packer shall be revoked for failure to comply with the immediately preceding section.

17 SECTION 4. *Separability Clause.* – If any part or provision of this Act is held
18 invalid or unconstitutional, the other parts or provisions thereof shall remain valid and
19 effective.

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

4 SECTION 6. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
5 from its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,