

Fifteenth Congress of the Republic)
Of the Philippines)
First Regular Session)

SENATE
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY

10 JUL 26 P1 09

SENATE
S.B. No. 1993

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Ramon Bong Revilla, Jr.

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to establish the Center for Animal Vaccine and Disease Diagnostic Research and Development for the detection, control and eradication of the foot and mouth Disease (FMD), rabies, hemorrhagic septicemia, hog cholera, bovine spongiform encephalomyelitis (mad cow disease) and other animal diseases.

The FMD was introduced into the Philippines in 1902 from Hong Kong. Since then, FMD has been reported virtually every year in the Philippines, reaching epidemic proportions in Luzon in 1995, threatening some 5.6 million heads of cattle, carabao and pigs. On June 5, 1995, President Fidel Ramos issued E.O. 251, declaring Luzon as a Calamity Area as a result of the Foot and Mouth Disease, rationalizing Public Safety Measures for the eradication of the Foot and Mouth Disease in the country. The economic losses incurred by the livestock industry is estimated at P2 billion.

Many opportunities for our domestic livestock enterprises to export meat and livestock products to other countries have been frustrated by the fact that some parts of the Philippines, particularly Luzon is still to be declared as FMD free by the Office International des Epizooties (OIE).

The programs of the Department of Agriculture to provide regular massive vaccination as one of the main components of animal disease prevention and control is constrained by its total dependence on imported animal vaccines. In 1995 alone, total imports of vaccines reached U.S\$3.1 million. This bill seeks to re-enforce the programs and efforts of the Department of Agriculture (DA) jointly with the Department of Science and Technology (DOST) to develop our domestic capability to produce livestock vaccines and offer better diagnostic research and services to our livestock farms all over the country.

In view of the foregoing, early passage of this bill is earnestly requested.


RAMON BONG REVILLA, JR.

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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF THE CENTER FOR ANIMAL
VACCINE AND DISEASE DIAGNOSTIC RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1. Establishment of the Center for Animal Vaccine and Disease Diagnostic Research and Development. -There shall be established, under the supervision of the Department of Agriculture, a Center for Animal Vaccine and Disease Diagnostic Research and Development, hereinafter referred to as the Center.

SECTION 2. Purpose of the Center. -The Center shall have the following purposes:

- a) Develop and contract the local manufacture of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) viral vaccine for the prevention of FMD;
- b) Develop modified live hog cholera viral vaccine for the prevention of classical swine fever;
- c) Develop Pasteurella Multodica Bacterin for the prevention of hemorrhagic septiciemia in cattle, carabao, goat, and sheep;
- d) Develop other animal vaccines such as rabies viral vaccine, pseudorabies viral vaccine, swine respiratory and poultry vaccine;
- e) Develop bacterial vaccine for the prevention of swine respiratory disease complex and enteric diseases;
- f) Develop animal disease diagnostics for laboratory and field use;
- g) Provide continuing education and training in animal health management systems; and
- h) Develop print and video-audio information guides for the livestock industry in support of viral and bacterial vaccines developed and manufactured throughout the Center.

SECTION 3. Board of Trustees. - The Center shall be administered by a Board of Trustees, hereinafter referred to as the Board, to be headed by the Secretary of Agriculture as Chairman, and the Secretary of Science and Technology as Vice-chairman, and five members,

three of whom shall come from the private veterinary medical sector who shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines. The Director of the Center shall also serve as an ex-officio member. No person shall be appointed Chairman, Vice-chairman or member of the Board unless he is a natural-born Filipino citizen, or good moral character and unquestionable integrity, and of recognized competence in the veterinary profession.

The appointive members of the Board shall serve a term of five (5) years. Of the first appointed, two shall serve for five (5) years, the other two (2) members for four (4) years, and the last member, for three (3) years, which terms shall be specified in their respective appointments. In case of vacancy among the appointive members, the successor shall be appointed to serve the unexpired term of the member replaced.

The compensation of the appointed member shall be fixed by the President of the Philippines.

SECTION 4. Powers and Functions of the Board. - The Board shall have the following powers and functions:

- a) Formulate policies and adopt measures which are necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act;
- b) Prescribe, amend and repeal with the approval of the Secretary, rules and regulations governing the operation of the Center;
- c) Provide for the appointment and removal of such personnel as may be necessary for the effective operation of the Center: and
- d) Perform such other functions as may be necessary to achieve the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 5. Quorum. - A majority of all the members of the Board shall constitute a quorum to officially transact its business.

SECTION 6. Director of the Center. - The Center shall have a Director who shall be its Chief Executive Officer. He shall have the following powers and duties:

- a) To prepare the agenda for the meetings of the Board and to submit policies and other important matters for the consideration of the Board;
- b) To execute and administer the policies and measures approved by the Board; and
- c) To direct and supervise the operations and internal administration of the Center.

The Director shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines upon the recommendation of the Secretary of Agriculture and may be removed for cause. He shall serve for a term of five (5) years.

No person shall be appointed as Director unless he has extensive experience in the veterinary profession and is of unquestionable integrity and honesty.

SECTION 7. Staffing Pattern. - The Board shall provide the staffing pattern for the Center and may authorize the Director to appoint, with the Board's approval and subject to Civil

Service Rules and Regulations, such officers and employees as may be necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 8. Appropriations. - The amount of Fifty-Eight Million Pesos (P58,000,000) for the initial operation of the Center shall be charged to the appropriations of the Department of Agriculture. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the continued operation of the Center shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 9. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations and other issuances inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are deemed modified, revoked or repealed accordingly.

SECTION 10. Separability Clause. If any section or provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect

SECTION 11. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in two (2) leading newspapers of national circulation.

Approved,