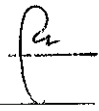


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SENATE
S. No. 3157

BY: 

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

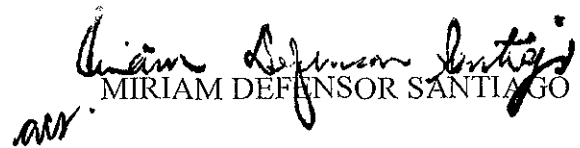
EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 2, Section 15 provides: “The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.”

Noncommunicable diseases, especially cardiovascular diseases (CVDs), cancer, obesity and type 2 diabetes mellitus, reportedly kill more people every year than any other cause of death. Four factors in the epidemiology of these diseases – poor diet, physical inactivity, tobacco and alcohol use – are of overwhelming importance to public health. Fruit and vegetables are an important component of a healthy diet and, if consumed daily in sufficient amounts, could help prevent major diseases such as CVDs and certain cancers.¹

Thus, there is a need for legislative policies to promote and support fruit and vegetable consumption.

This bill seeks to conduct a pilot program in support of efforts to increase the amount of purchases of local fresh fruits and vegetables for schools and service institutions by giving certain administrative regions the option of receiving a grant from the Secretary of Agriculture. With this bill, schools would be allowed to spend some of the government funding they receive to buy local food from local farmers.


MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO

¹ http://www.who.int/dietphysicalactivity/publications/fruit_vegetables_report.pdf.

12 MAR 19 12:50

SENATE
S. No. 3157

RECEIVED BY: *Car*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

1 AN ACT
2 TO CONDUCT A PILOT PROGRAM TO SUPPORT EFFORTS TO INCREASE THE
3 AMOUNT OF PURCHASES OF LOCAL FRESH FRUITS AND VEGETABLES FOR
4 SCHOOLS BY GIVING CERTAIN ADMINISTRATIVE REGIONS THE OPTION OF
5 RECEIVING A GRANT FROM THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE

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

6 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as “Local School Foods Act.”

7 SECTION 2. *Pilot Program for Purchase of Fresh Fruits and Vegetables for Schools and*
8 *Service Institutions.* –

9 (A) In General. – The Secretary of Agriculture (here called “Secretary”) shall use not
10 more than Five Million Pesos (P5,000,000.00) to conduct a pilot program under which the
11 Secretary will give not more than three participating administrative regions, as listed the option
12 of receiving a grant in an amount equal to the value of the commodities that the participating
13 region would otherwise receive under this Act for each of fiscal years 2012 and 2013.

14 (B) Use of Grant Funds. – A participating region receiving a grant under this Act may
15 use the grant funds solely to purchase fresh fruits and vegetables for distribution to schools in the
16 region.

17 (C) Selection of Participating States. – The Secretary shall select participating regions
18 from applications submitted by the regions.

19 (D) Reporting Requirements. –

20 (a) School Requirement. – Schools in a participating region shall keep records of
21 purchases of fresh fruits and vegetables made using the grant funds and report such
22 records to the region.

1 (b) Region Requirement. – Each participating region shall submit to the Secretary
2 a report on the success of the pilot program in the region, including information on the
3 amount and value of each type of fresh fruit and vegetable purchased by the region; and
4 the benefit provided by such purchases in conducting the school food service in the
5 region, including meeting school meal requirements.

6 SECTION 3. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act shall be declared
7 unconstitutional, any other provision not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

8 SECTION 4. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, or
9 parts thereof inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or amended accordingly.

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

Approved,

/fldp19mar2012