

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



Senate
Office of the Secretary

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SENATE
Senate Bill No. 1680

RECEIVED BY: *je*

INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Eating is an acknowledged Filipino passion. The entire archipelago boasts of regional delicacies showcasing the locale's richness and diversity in terms of food preparation, variety and taste.

Thus, there is a need to ensure that the food that is prepared on everybody's table is fit for human consumption. This brings us to the current dispute and controversy regarding genetically-modified organisms (GMOs) commonly associated with corn and other staple food. GMOs are genetically engineered organisms that contain genes borrowed from other organisms and introduced into the food supply. These GMOs are primarily used to aid in the resistance of crops against pests and other predatory insects thus, ensuring a rich harvest. This, however entails the field introduction or release of GMOs in order to test their resilience and resistance in combating natural predators and insects that threaten expected bountiful harvest. Such release into the environment, however, might pose several threats or danger to the ecology. There is therefore a need to investigate or evaluate its effects on the ecology.

This measure seeks to declare the practice of releasing or introducing said GMOs as against public policy in order to give the government time to reexamine and evaluate its process with the end in view of ensuring a healthy consuming public within the context of a balanced ecology.

Immediate passage of this bill is thus earnestly recommended,


JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA
Senator

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AN ACT
DECLARING AS AGAINST PUBLIC POLICY THE RELEASE OR
INTRODUCTION OF GENETICALLY-MODIFIED ORGANISMS INTO THE
ENVIRONMENT AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the "**Genetically Modified Organisms Restriction Act of 2013**".

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to protect and advance the right of the people to continued health and to a balanced ecology in accord with the rhythm and harmony of nature. Pursuant to the mandate of the Constitution, the state hereby further declares it a policy to utilize all governmental resources and means towards providing safety and regulatory measures towards the promotion of clean and healthful living within a balanced ecology.

SEC. 3. Field Resources of Genetically-Modified Organisms. - The field release or introduction of any genetically modified organisms into the environment is hereby declared illegal and against public policy. Any person, entity or organization found to be actually releasing or causing the release of genetically modified organisms into the environment is hereby penalized with imprisonment of not less than twelve (12) years and one day but not more than twenty (20) years and to pay a fine of one million pesos (P1,000,000.00).

The President and Secretary, in the case of a corporation, as well as the members of the Board of Directors or Trustees of any public corporation, institution, and any other private association or corporation who gave their approval for the foregoing activity shall likewise be subject to the penalties stated in the preceding paragraph.

SEC. 4. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days following the completion of its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,