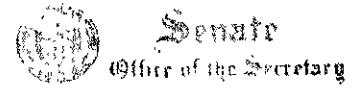


SIXTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC)
OF THE PHILIPPINES)
Second Regular Session)



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SENATE
S. No. 2810

RECEIVED BY. *J.*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

AN ACT
TO ENSURE IMPROVED ACCOUNTABILITY OF ANIMAL
EXPERIMENTATION PROGRAMS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Republic Act No. 8485, also known as “The Animal Welfare Act of 1998” was enacted to protect and promote the welfare of all animals in the Philippines. The law mandates the supervision and regulation of the establishment and operations of all facilities utilized for breeding, maintaining, keeping, treating, or training of all animals either as objects of trade or household pets.

The law, does not, however, provide for clear guidelines to ensure that animals used in local or international experimentation programs should be legally obtained from local sources.

This bill, therefore, aims to increase accountability in the use of animals for educational, experimentation, or research purposes by institutionalizing the following:

(A) To define the persons from whom the animals for research can be legally obtained;

(B) To require the reporting on animal experimentation programs by the Executive Officials concerned; and

(C) To penalize violators of this Act.¹

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
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¹ This bill was originally filed during the Thirteenth Congress, First Regular Session.

SENATE
S. No. 2810

DATE:

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

AN ACT
TO ENSURE IMPROVED ACCOUNTABILITY OF ANIMAL
EXPERIMENTATION PROGRAMS

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

1 SECTION 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Accountability in
2 Using Animals for Research Act.”

3 SECTION 2. *Scope.* – This Act aims to ensure that all animals used by research
4 facilities for educational, experimentation, or research purposes are obtained legally and
5 to require annual reporting on animal experimentation programs.

6 SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* – For purposes of this Act, the term:

7 (A) “Chairperson” means the Chairperson of the Committee on Animal Welfare,
8 as created by “The Animal Welfare Act of 1998.”

9 (B) “Director” means the Director of the Bureau of Animal Industry;

10 (C) “Duly Licensed Dealer” means any person with a legitimate business of
11 buying or selling animals; “Person” means any individual, partnership, firm, joint stock
12 company, corporation, association, trust, estate, pound, shelter, or other legal entity;

13 (C) “Research Facility” means any public or private entities created primarily for
14 research or education purposes; and

15 (D) “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture;

1 SECTION 4. *Use of Animals.* – No research facility, public or private, may use
2 any animal for research or educational purposes of the animal was obtained from a person
3 other than a person described in Section 5, and without prior authorization from the
4 Committee on Animal Welfare.

5 SECTION 5. *Permissible Sources.* – A person from whom a research facility may
6 obtain any animal for research or educational purposes, or a person who may sell or
7 donate any animal to a research facility, shall be:

8 (A) A duly licensed dealer that has bred and raised the animal;

9 (B) A publicly owned and operated pound or shelter;

10 (C) A person that is donating the animal and that:

11 (1) Bred and raised the animal; or

12 (2) Owned the animal for not less than one (1) year immediately preceding
13 the donation; or

14 (D) A research facility registered by the Bureau of Animal Industry;

15 SECTION 6. *Prohibition on Sale or Donation of Animals.* – No person, other than
16 a person described in Section, may sell or donate, or offer for sale or donation, any
17 animal to any local or international research facility.

18 SECTION 7. *Annual Reporting.* – The Secretary shall submit an annual report to
19 Congress which shall provide:

20 (A) Information on the procedures likely to produce pain or distress in any animal
21 and assurances demonstrating that the principal investigator considered alternatives to
22 those procedures;

23 (B) Assurances satisfactory to the Secretary that such facility is adhering to the
24 standards described in this Act and other related statutes on the matter;

25 (C) An explanation for any deviation from the prescribed standards;

1 (D) Information regarding where animals used by such research facility were
2 obtained;

3 (E) An accurate count of all animals of all species, including rats, mice, and birds,
4 obtained from local sources and used by local research facilities;

5 (F) An accurate count of all animals of all species, including rats, mice and birds,
6 obtained from local sources and used by international research facilities; and

7 (G) Information regarding the general purposes of the animal experimentation
8 program or research facility.

9 It shall be the duty of the Secretary, with the cooperation of the Director and the
10 Chairman, to develop a system for obtaining and consolidating the data, and a system for
11 releasing relevant information to the public.

12 SECTION 8. *Penalty.* – Any person who violates any of the provisions of this Act
13 shall, upon conviction by final judgment, be punished by imprisonment of not less than
14 six (6) months nor more than two (2) years of a fine not less than One Thousand Pesos
15 (₱1,000) nor more than Five Thousand Pesos (₱5,000) or both at the discretion of the
16 Court. If the violation is committed by a juridical person, the officer responsible therefor
17 shall serve the imprisonment when imposed. If the violation is committed by an alien, he
18 or she shall be immediately deported after service of sentence without any further
19 proceedings

20 SECTION 9. *No Required Sale or Donation.* – Nothing in this Act requires a
21 pound or shelter to sell or donate, or offer to sell or donate, any animal to a research
22 facility.

1 SECTION 10. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or
2 unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other
3 provisions hereof.

4 SECTION 11. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, and issuances, or
5 portions thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby
6 repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

7 SECTION 12. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
8 after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general
9 circulation.

Approved,

/rapt4June2015