

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



15 JUN -8 P4 38

SENATE
S. No. 2828

RECEIVED BY: *J*

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

AN ACT
REQUIRING THE POSTING OF SIGNS NEAR PRE-PACKAGED SALADS

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution, Article 2, Section 15 provides:

Section 15. The State shall protect and promote the right to health of people and instill health consciousness among them.

There has been a recent shift in eating habits from eating meat to eating vegetables. There are now entrepreneurs that introduced pre-mixed salads in the market. However, some makers of pre-mixed salads actually label their bags with instructions not to wash the contents prior to consumption. According to tests, however, the produce was found to have higher than usual amounts of bacteria. After washing the produce, these same tests showed reduced levels of bacteria.

There would be far fewer cases of food-borne illness if everyone followed certain guidelines for handling food safely. Unfortunately, many consumers have no access to this information. Providing consumers with information and access to experts for proper and safe handling and preparation of produce, as well as all food products, would greatly reduce the number of incidents of food poisoning, which would ultimately save lives.

This bill aims to require the posting of signages near pre-packed salads urging people to wash them before eating them.¹

Miriam Defensor Santiago
MIRIAM DEFENSOR SANTIAGO
7P

¹ This bill was originally filed in the Fourteenth Congress, Second Regular Session.

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



15 JUN -8 P4:38

SENATE
S. No. 2828

RECEIVED BY: Y

Introduced by Senator Miriam Defensor Santiago

AN ACT
REQUIRING THE POSTING OF SIGNS NEAR PRE-PACKAGED SALADS

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 “Safe Packaged Salads
2 Act.”

3 SECTION 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – The State shall protect and promote the
4 right to health of people and instill health consciousness among them. In line with this,
5 the state is requiring that signs be posted near pre-packaged salads urging people to wash
6 them before eating them.

7 SECTION 3. *Definition of Terms.* – As used in this Act, the following terms shall
8 mean:

9 (a) “Pre-packaged” means a package which is (i) neither a hermetically-sealed can
10 nor stored at or below a temperature of zero degrees celsius in accordance with the
11 instructions of a manufacturer or processor, and (ii) which is packaged other than at the
12 premises of the retail food store; and

13 (b) “Retail food store” means any store selling food at retail, which store is not
14 primarily engaged in the sale of food for consumption on the premises; and

15 (c) “Salad” means a product consisting mainly of leafy raw vegetables such as
16 lettuce and spinach.

1 SECTION 4. *Sign Requirement.* –

2 (a) Any retail food store which offers for sale any pre-packaged salads shall
3 conspicuously post a sign situated so as to be clearly visible to any consumer inspecting
4 such pre-packaged salads. Such sign shall read: “NOTICE: ALTHOUGH A PACKAGE
5 FOR BAGGED SALADS MAY READ THAT WASHING IS NOT NECESSARY, IT
6 IS ADVISABLE THAT THIS PRODUCE, ALONG WITH ALL OTHER PRODUCE,
7 BE WASHED THOROUGHLY BEFORE CONSUMPTION.”

8 (b) In addition, such sign shall state the current mailing address and telephone
9 number established by the Food and Drug Administration for receiving questions from
10 consumers regarding the proper methods of washing and/or safely preparing pre-
11 packaged salads or any other food product.

12 SECTION 5. *Font Size.* – Such sign required pursuant to this Act shall be printed
13 with lettering that is legible and shall be at least three-quarters of an inch boldface type.

14 SECTION 6. *Penalties.* – Any person who violates any provision of this Act will
15 be punished by a minimum of six (6) months and a maximum of one (1) year
16 imprisonment and a fine of Five Thousand Pesos (₱5,000).

17 SECTION 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – The Department of Health
18 and the Food and Drug Administration shall prescribe the necessary rules and regulations
19 to implement this Act.

20 SECTION 8. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or
21 unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other
22 provisions hereof.

1 SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, and issuances, or
2 portions thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby
3 repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

4 SECTION 10. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days
5 after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in two (2) newspapers of general
6 circulation.

Approved,

/fldp5June2015