

**SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES**

Third Regular Session

**SENATE
S.B. NO. 2068**



SENATE

Office of the Secretary

'18 OCT 10 P5:09

Introduced by Senator Maria Lourdes Nancy S. Binay

**AN ACT
INFORMING THE PUBLIC ABOUT ADDITIVES IN PET FOOD**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Article II, Section 24 of the 1987 Philippine Constitution provides:

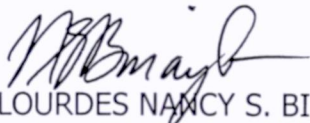
"The State recognizes the vital role of communication and information in nation-building."

Republic Act No. 8485, otherwise known as "The Animal Welfare Act of 1998", was approved to protect and promote the welfare of all animals in the Philippines by supervising and regulating the establishment and operations of all facilities utilized for breeding, maintaining, keeping, treating or training of all animals either as objects of trade or as household pets.

Pet food is composed of basic nutritional components as well as extra ingredients and additives. The function of additives ranges from preserving the nutritional value of food and its freshness to improving its taste, appearance, and smell. Meanwhile dangerous levels of preservatives in commercial pet food can cause allergies, skin problems, gastrointestinal problems, and may damage major organs like the kidney, liver, and brain. Therefore food safety and awareness is essential in order to keep animals safe from illnesses.

The proposed bill seeks to promote awareness and information for the public regarding the additives in the pet food that they give their pets and possible hazards that they may cause.

In view of the foregoing, the passage of this measure is earnestly sought.


MARIA LOURDES NANCY S. BINAY
Senator

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

1 Section 1. *Short Title.* – This Act shall be known as the “Pet Food Additive
2 Information Act.”

3
4 Sec. 2. *Requirements for labeling of pet food products.* – The following
5 information shall be included in the packaging of pet food products:

6 (A) Ingredients and all additives included in the pet food; and

7 (B) A warning if the additive is a proven carcinogen or is proven
8 to cause detrimental side effects based on standards to be set
9 by the Bureau of Food and Drugs.

10
11 Sec. 3. *Duty of the Bureau of Food and Drugs.* – The BFAD shall provide
12 appropriate and cost-effective method of verification of the accuracy of the
13 information contained in pet food packaging. It shall also create a database of
14 toxic and harmful additives in pet food according to the following standards:

15 (A) For general recognition, there must be an expert consensus
16 that the substance is safe for use as a component of food;
17 and

18 (B) This expert consensus of safety must be based on either (a)
19 generally available data and information to show common use

1 of the substance in animal feed; or (b) scientific procedures,
2 which require the same quantity and quality of scientific data
3 needed for BFAD approval of the substance as a food additive.
4

5 In addition, this information must be published in the scientific literature.
6

7 Sec. 4. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act is held invalid or
8 unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity and effectivity of the other
9 provisions hereof.
10

11 Sec. 5. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, and issuances, or
12 portions thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are
13 hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.
14

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

Approved,