


SENATE

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Senate Bill No. 523

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Introduced by Senator Juan Miguel F. Zubiri

AN ACT PROVIDING FOR A SYSTEM OF REDISTRIBUTING AND RECYCLING FOOD WASTE TO PROMOTE FOOD SECURITY

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippine Food and Nutrition Research Institute (FNRI) defines food wastage as any cooked and raw food items that an individual or family failed to consume, or utilize, due possible to spoilage, cooking preparations, plate waste and those fed to pets and animals. According to a 2015 FNRI survey, a Filipino household wastes about 43 grams of rice daily. Multiplied by the 22.975 million Filipinos household, the country wastes around 987,952 kg. of rice every day.

While kilos of food goes to waste daily, a number of Filipinos still consider themselves hungry. Based on an SWS Survey conducted in 2018, 10.5% or an estimated 2.4 million families experienced involuntary hunger at least once in the past three months.

It is a disheartening scenario that some of our countrymen are still experiencing hunger while tons of food are being wasted elsewhere in the country. This bill seeks to address this huge disconnect through the creation of a National Zero Food Waste Campaign, with the aim to inform Filipinos from various sectors of the society, from private individuals, to households to large businesses, of the repercussions of food wastage and encourage them to do their role in avoiding it.

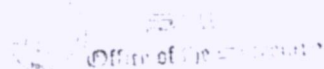
This bill also lays out parameters on how food related businesses can reduce their food waste and contribute to activities that helps hunger-stricken households have access to their next meal by donating their surplus food to food banks and other food distribution charities.

Wastage of any kind is counterproductive, especially if what is being wasted is a basic necessity to survive. It is the objective of this bill to ensure that the hard work of our farmers, and those working in the food sector are used to provide nourishment to the people, and would go to hungry stomachs not straight to the trash.

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


JUAN MIGUEL F. ZUBIRI


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**AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR A SYSTEM OF REDISTRIBUTING AND RECYCLING FOOD WASTE TO
PROMOTE FOOD SECURITY**

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

1 **SECTION 1. *Short Title.*** – This Act shall be known as the “Zero Food Waste
2 Act.”

3 **SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.*** – The State recognizes that each person has a
4 right to an adequate standard of living, including to sufficient food. It is hereby declared
5 a policy of the State to safeguard food security, end hunger, and promote the efficient
6 use of the country’s food resources.

7 Towards this end, the State shall adopt a system to promote, facilitate, and ensure
8 the reduction of food waste through redistribution and recycling. The massive amount of
9 food wasted and the considerable number of people going hungry daily is a breach that
10 this Act intends to correct.

11 **SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.*** – As used in this Act, the following terms shall
12 mean:

13 a. *Food insecure* – persons or groups who have difficulty producing or purchasing
14 food to avoid hunger.

15 b. *Edible food waste* – food discarded in the retail and consumption stages,
16 determined to be fit for consumption based on standards set by the National Nutrition
17 Council.

1 c. *Food waste reduction* – the decrease of food waste generation, the redistribution
2 of food waste to the food insecure or the recycling of food as fertilizer or compost.

3 d. *Food-related business* – public and private businesses involved in the
4 manufacturing and processing of food products (i.e. food manufacturers), private
5 businesses involved the wholesaling and retailing of food products (i.e. supermarkets),
6 and private businesses involved in serving food products (i.e. restaurants, cafeterias, and
7 hotels).

8 e. *Food banks* – non-profit, charitable or other social mission-driven organizations
9 that distribute food to the food insecure.

10 f. *Inedible food waste* – food discarded in the retail and consumption stages,
11 determined to be unfit for consumption based on standards set by the National Nutrition
12 Council.

13 e. *Waste management and recycling enterprises* – organizations that manage
14 inedible food waste by converting these into fertilizers or compost.

15 **SEC. 4. National Zero Food Waste Campaign.** – The National Nutrition Council
16 (NNC) in close coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources
17 (DENR), the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Department of
18 Education (DepEd), the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the Department of
19 Health (DOH), and other concerned agencies and Local Government Units (LGUs), is
20 hereby tasked to undertake a National Zero Food Waste Campaign, and the food waste
21 reduction efforts required of food-related businesses and households through LGUs. The
22 Campaign shall also promote the food waste reduction hierarchy, and recommend means
23 of reducing individual food waste.

24 DepEd shall have the duty to ensure that the education curriculum includes
25 materials on the current global and national food waste situation, on ways to reduce food
26 waste, on national and local food waste prevention programs, and regarding the
27 provisions of this Act. DTI shall encourage food-related business to purchase lower-price,
28 non-standard size or shape produce to be used in their food products.

29 **SEC. 5. Food-related Business Waste Reduction Strategy.** – Food-related
30 businesses such as food manufacturers, supermarkets, restaurants, cafeterias, and hotels
31 are hereby required to:

1 a. Submit an initial report to the DSWD and DENR that contains data on the amount
2 (in tons) of its edible and inedible food waste in the past year, organized according to the
3 manner of disposal, including donation, composting or discarding;

4 b. Submit an annual report to the DSWD and DENR that contains data on the
5 amount (in tons) of its edible and inedible food waste in the immediately precedent year,
6 organized according to the manner of disposal, including donation, composting or
7 discarding;

8 c. Enter into a contract with food banks to redistribute edible food waste to the
9 food insecure;

10 d. Shoulder the costs of transporting edible food waste from business location to
11 the food bank's warehouse or distribution center;

12 e. Ensure that the edible food waste is unadulterated and in good condition upon
13 arrival at the food bank's distribution center;

14 f. Enter into a contract with waste management and recycling enterprises to
15 recycle inedible food waste into fertilizer or compost;

16 g. Shoulder the costs of transporting inedible food waste from collection areas to
17 waste management sites; and

18 h. Reach and maintain food waste levels at the target set by the DENR.

19 **SEC. 6. National Zero Food Waste Scheme.** – DSWD, as the coordinating
20 agency between the food business and good banks, shall:

21 a. Provide guidelines and standards for the collection, storage, and distribution of
22 edible food donated to food banks;

23 b. Ensure that food businesses have entered into contracts with food banks and
24 issue acceptance certificated to food businesses;

25 c. Promote linkages between food banks and LGUs to create a community-based
26 food distribution system for the food insecure; and

27 d. Create a Self-Sufficiency Program that will provide the food insecure with skills
28 training on managing food banks and livelihood programs to avoid the dependence on
29 donation solely.

1 **SEC. 7. Household and Local Government Unit Waste Reduction Strategy.**

2 – LGUs are hereby required to:

3 a. Submit an initial report that contains data on the amount (in tons) of inedible
4 food waste that can be recycled as raw material for fertilizers or compost to the DENR;

5 b. Submit an annual report that contains data on the amount (in tons) of inedible
6 food waste that can be recycled as raw material for fertilizers or compost to the DENR;

7 c. Initiate waste segregation efforts per household through local campaigns;

8 d. Enter into a contract with waste management and recycling enterprises to
9 recycle inedible food waste from households into fertilizer or compost;

10 e. Shoulder the costs of transporting inedible food waste from collection areas to
11 waste management sites; and

12 f. Reach and maintain inedible food waste levels at the target set by DENR.

13 **SEC. 8. Tax Incentive** – Food related businesses that donate edible food to food
14 banks shall be exempt from donor’s tax and the same shall be considered as an allowable
15 deduction from their gross income in accordance with the provisions of the National
16 Internal Revenue Code, as amended.

17 **SEC. 9. Penal Provisions/Penalties.** – The penalty of *prison correccional* will
18 be imposed on any individual, private or public, who deliberately makes food waste unfit
19 for consumption. The same penalty is applicable to private or public actors who prevent
20 the redirection of edible food waste to food banks or inedible food waste to waste
21 management and recycling enterprises.

22 **SEC. 10. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within sixty (60) days from
23 the effectivity of this Act, the NNC, in coordination with the DSWD, DENR, DepEd, DTI,
24 DOH, and other relevant government agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules and
25 regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

26 **SEC. 11. Periodic Review.** – The implementing agencies shall submit an annual
27 report to Congress on the progress in the implementation of this Act.

28 **SEC. 12. Appropriations.** – The funds needed to implement this Act shall be
29 included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

1 **SEC. 13. *Separability Clause.*** – Should any provision herein be declared
2 unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity of the other provisions of this Act.

3 **SEC. 14. *Repealing Clause.*** – All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations
4 or other issuances or parts inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed
5 or modified accordingly.

6 **SEC. 15. *Effectivity.*** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
7 publication in the Official Gazette or in any two (2) newspapers of general circulation in
8 the Philippines.

9 *Approved,*