



SENATE
S. No. 1297

20 JAN 28 A 9:49

RECEIVED BY: _____

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

**AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A DIAGNOSTIC LABORATORY FOR LIVESTOCK-RELATED
DISEASES IN EVERY PROVINCE WHERE THE LIVESTOCK INDUSTRY IS A
MAJOR ECONOMIC ACTIVITY, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR AND
FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

EXPLANATORY NOTE


The Year 2019 was the year when the country's local swine industry was hit hard. African swine fever or ASF reached the Philippines and spread like wild fire across multiple cities and provinces. This resulted in the culling of thousands of pigs, wiping out entire farms and growers, the recall of pork-based products by food processing companies and local governments frantically imposing entry bans for all pork and pork-related or commingled products from disease-stricken areas. The outbreak adversely affected the 260 Billion-peso swine industry of the country which is also the eight biggest pork producer by volume worldwide.

In the past, the Philippines had been threatened by various livestock diseases, such as foot-and-mouth disease, peste de petits ruminants (PPR) or goat plague, avian influenza or bird flu outbreak, and red tide or algal blooms. These disease outbreaks definitely resulted to strain and injury to the domestic livestock sector.

In situations like this, prevention and containment of the disease is still the better solution. The government's thrust must be that of early detection and control of the disease to prevent it from reaching the level of an outbreak and from spreading across entire regions. This bill is filed to further strengthen the country's capacity for early detection and preventive response to livestock diseases.

Under this proposed measure, the establishment of diagnostic laboratories in all provinces where the livestock industry is a major economic activity will be facilitated. The Diagnostic Laboratory will be under the supervision and management of the Department of Agriculture (DA) Regional Office of the region where it is located. These laboratories are mandated to study, research and identify the disease strains that affect the local livestock industry across different animals (cattle, swine, goat, carabao, chicken, etc.) and to recommend the appropriate vaccines and other measures necessary to address and stop the spread of the diseases. This bill also contains a provision for the implementation of an information, education and communication (IEC) campaign by the DA upon the determination of the existence of a livestock disease outbreak.

In view of this, early passage of this bill is sought.



MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID
Senator



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*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 "Livestock-Related Disease
2 Diagnostic Laboratory Act".
3

4 Sec. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – It is hereby declared as the policy of the
5 government to develop and support the livestock industry in the country in order to
6 promote food security.

7 Towards this end, the State shall institute programs and mechanisms to protect
8 the livestock farming industry from various types of diseases and epidemics. Early
9 detection of the various types of diseases and epidemics is critical in preventing the
10 huge economic loss brought about by the its spread and transmission. The
11 establishment of a diagnostic laboratory equipped with the necessary tools and
12 facilities and staffed by experts is instrumental in achieving this goal.
13

14 Sec. 3. *Establishment of a Diagnostic Laboratory for Livestock-Related*
15 *Diseases.* – The Department of Agriculture (DA) is hereby mandated to establish a
16 Diagnostic Laboratory in every province where the livestock industry is a major

1 economic activity. The Diagnostic Laboratory shall be under the supervision and
2 management of the DA Regional Office of the region where it is located. Said
3 laboratory shall study, research and identify the disease strains that affect the local
4 hog industry and shall recommend the appropriate vaccines and other measures
5 necessary to address and stop the spread of the diseases.

6 The DA, in coordination with the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI),
7 Philippine Statistics Authority (PSA) and National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS), shall
8 determine the provinces where the livestock industry is a major economic activity and
9 where the Diagnostic Laboratories will be set up.

10
11 *Sec. 4. Information, Education and Communication (IEC) Campaign.* — Upon
12 determination by the Department of Agriculture of a livestock-related disease
13 outbreak, the DA, in coordination with local government units, shall conduct a massive
14 information, education and communication (IEC) campaign pertaining to the particular
15 disease strain that affects a particular region, and shall recommend the appropriate
16 preventive measures to be undertaken by farmers.

17 The IEC campaign shall include, among others:

- 18 a. Dissemination of guidelines on the various measures to be undertaken by
19 livestock farmers in order to prevent the spread of the disease;
- 20 b. Raising public awareness through print, radio, television and other media
21 platforms on the specific strain of disease that affects the livestock industry;
- 22 c. Dissemination of publication materials and other resources on the prevention
23 of the spread of the disease; and
- 24 d. Raising of public awareness on the early detection and reporting of such
25 diseases and their symptoms as identified by the farmers.

26
27 *Sec. 5. Annual Report.* – Each Diagnostic Laboratory shall submit to the
28 Department of Agriculture an annual report of its activities and the status of livestock
29 diseases and the measures taken to address and prevent its spread of their respective
30 territorial jurisdictions. The DA shall in turn submit a consolidated report to Congress,
31 which shall also be made available for the public.

32

1 *Sec. 6. Appropriations.* — The amount necessary for the implementation of this
2 Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriation of the Department of
3 Agriculture.

4
5 *Sec. 7. Implementing Rules and Regulations.* — Within sixty (60) days from the
6 effectivity of this Act, the Department of Agriculture shall issue the necessary rules
7 and regulations to implement the provisions of this Act.

8
9 *Sec. 8. Repealing Clause.* — All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders,
10 proclamations, rules and regulations, or any part thereof, which are inconsistent with
11 the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

12
13 *Sec. 9. Separability Clause.* — If any provision or part of this Act, or the
14 application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held unconstitutional or invalid,
15 the remainder of this Act shall not be affected thereby.

16
17 *Sec. 10. Effectivity Clause.* — This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days from
18 its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general
19 circulation.

20
21 *Approved,*