

FOURTEENTH CONGRESS OF THE REPUBLIC
OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session

7 JUL -3 P4:31

SENATE
S. B. No. 863

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator Manuel "Lito" M. Lapid

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The use of staple wires in packing food has been a common practice of most commercial food manufacturers and establishments.

Convenient, fast and practical as it may appear, the use of staple wires for packing food is definitely a health hazard. The risk of the staple wires getting mixed and consumed with the food unnoticed is always a possibility and as in most cases, the staple wires become rusty as a result of exposure to certain elements. In this case, even if the staple wires are not actually mixed with the food, health hazards are already present.

In this modern age, there are several other means of packaging food items that can be used as safer alternatives to staple wires.

This simple piece of legislation can be considered worthwhile and meaningful even if it can only save the life of a single Filipino.


MANUEL "LITO" M. LAPID

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AN ACT
PROHIBITING THE USE OF STAPLE WIRES OR ANY OTHER SIMILAR
FORM OF METAL OBJECTS AS MEDIUM FOR CLOSING AND SEALING
FOOD ITEMS INSIDE ITS PACKAGING PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR
VIOLATION THEREFOR AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES.

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

SECTION 1. *Short Title.* This Act shall be known as "Staple Wires on Food Items Prohibition Act of 2007"

Sec. 2. *Definition of Terms.* – Whenever used in this Act, the following terms shall mean:

- a.) staple wires - shall refer to U-shaped wires or other similar forms of metal or hard plastic objects which are used for driving through layers of penetrable packaging material in order to hold, seal, close or secure any opening through clinching together of separate layers of a packaging ;
- b.) packaging – shall refer to bags, containers and wrappers, regardless of sizes, shapes and materials used; employed by food sellers to place food items being sold;
- c.) food items – all kinds of foods classified as manufactured, processed, non-processed, cooked and raw meat intended for human consumption;

Sec. 3. *Coverage.* – All food sellers comprising of hotels, restaurants, food chains, food manufacturers, canteens, markets, stores, vendors and other similar

establishments engaged in the activity of selling or producing food items, whether or not a registered business entity under the existing laws, shall be covered by this Act.

Sec. 4. *Prohibited Act.* – Any provision of law to the contrary notwithstanding, it shall be unlawful for food sellers to use staple wires as medium for closing, sealing or holding together packaging of food items manufactured, produced and sold in the market, including those used for as outer packaging of food items already contained in a primary packaging.

Sec. 5. *Penalties.* - Any food sellers violating this act, upon conviction, be punished by a fine of not less than Five Thousand Pesos (P5,000.00) but not more than Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00), or an imprisonment of not more than six (6) months, or both at the discretion of the court. Provided however, if the violation is made by a corporation, association, or partnership, the penalty provided herein shall be imposed upon the directors, president, or managing partners.

SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, or administrative rules and regulations or any part thereof which may be inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SEC. 7. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect thirty (30) days after its publication in two (2) newspapers of national circulation.

Approved,