


Republic of the Philippines }
FOURTEENTH CONGRESS }
First Regular Session }

7 NOV -7 P1:30

SENATE
S.B. No. **1822**

RECEIVED BY: 

Introduced by Senator FRANCIS G. ESCUDERO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Philippines is a country whose gross domestic product (GNP) is greatly dependent on agriculture and one of the principal sectors that constantly contribute positively to the yearly GNP is the livestock and poultry sector.

The livestock and poultry industry in the country has been constantly and perennially besieged by outbreaks of communicable animal diseases, causing great economic losses to the industry and the country, hence, there is a need to protect our livestock industry from any domestic and foreign communicable animal diseases in order to continually contribute to the livestock development and food security program of the government.

One of the most effective means of controlling the spread of animal diseases is to prevent the entry of animals coming from areas (local and/or international) that are known to have an outbreak of animal diseases. This can be accomplished by the strict implementation of inter-provincial, inter-regional, national and international border control measures in the movement of animals, animal products and by-products, animal effects and other related commodities. To address this need, the Department of Agriculture (DA) reorganized the Bureau of Animal Industry-Veterinary Quarantine Services (BAI-VQS) into an *ad hoc* National Veterinary Quarantine Services (BAI-NVQS) pursuant to Special Order No. 240, Series of 2000 dated April 27, 2000.

However, the "informal" set-up of the BAI-NVQS has been deemed inadequate to fully perform its mandate of controlling and preventing the entry and spread of foreign communicable animal diseases into the country, as well as ensuring food security, food safety and global competitiveness of Philippine agriculture. A specific law has to be enacted to strengthen the veterinary quarantine service and institutionalize the NVQS under the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI), in much the same way as PD 1433 and the Fisheries Code of 1998 has done for the Plant Quarantine Service under Bureau of Plant Industry (BPI) and the Fisheries Quarantine Service of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources (BFAR) respectively.

Furthermore, a specific law will allow the NVQS to obtain its own budget from the General Appropriations Act (GAA) so that it can function more efficiently and effectively plus, generate revenue through the retention of certain percentages of its collection for regulatory fees that will support its operation, which in effect, will also supplement its GAA allocations.


For this reason, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought, for the protection and benefit of the Livestock and Poultry Industry in our country.



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AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR A REVISED VETERINARY QUARANTINE ACT OF 2007

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 Revised
2. Veterinary Quarantine Act of 2007.

3 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** - It shall be the policy of the Government that
4 activities of national and international significance shall be undertaken by the
5 central government in accordance with international covenants and agreements
6 for the protection of the domestic livestock and poultry industry as well as that of
7 other countries. While some functions relative to the protection of animals against
8 communicable animal diseases have been devolved to the Local Government
9 Units under the Local Government Code and have been decentralized to the
10 various Regional Field Units (RFUs) of the Department of Agriculture (DA), the
11 overall control and supervision of veterinary quarantine activities at the
12 international, national and inter-regional levels shall remain under the BAI, with
13 veterinary quarantine activities at the level of the local government units and the
14 DA RFUs directly under its technical supervision to provide for a unified system
15 of providing better and efficient protection to the animal industry.

16 **SEC. 3. Statement of Objectives.** - This act shall have the following objectives:

17 3.1. To establish a strong, responsive and dynamic veterinary
18 quarantine service of the country in order to protect our

1 livestock and poultry industry against foreign communicable
2 animal diseases.

3 3.2. To establish a mechanism/procedure where outbreak of
4 animal disease in one province/region will not spread to
5 other provinces/region of the country.

6 3.3. To provide an inspection system for the inter-provincial and
7 international movement of animals, animal products, animal
8 by-products, animal effects, animal feeds, veterinary
9 drugs/products and biologics including documentation and
10 issuance of permit and commodity clearance in relation thereto.

11 3.4. To provide policies and guidelines for the importation and
12 exportation of animals, animal products, animal by-products,
13 animal effects, animal feeds, veterinary drugs/products and
14 biologics in accordance with international commitments and
15 agreements entered into by the Republic of the Philippines.

16 3.5. To provide a mechanism whereby a portion of the collection of
17 the *veterinary quarantine services from regulatory fees* will be
18 retained by the National Veterinary Quarantine Service
19 (NVQS) as herein-after established, to augment its operational
20 expenses and afford flexibility in times of animal disease
21 emergencies.

22 **SEC. 4. *Definition of Terms.***

- 23 • *Animals* - means livestock, poultry, and all other members of
24 the animal kingdom including birds, whether domesticated
25 or wild, but not including man.
- 26 • *Animal By-product* - any article derived from animal origin
27 which can be used for other purposes except as human food.

- 1 • *Animal Effects* - means litter or manure, hay, fodder or the
2 like, used as blankets, chains, harnesses, ropes, buckets, boxes
3 or crates and the like used by animal.
- 4 • *Animal Feeds/Feeding Stuff* - shall embrace all such articles to
5 be used as feeds for animals purporting to supply proteins,
6 carbohydrates, fats, mineral, vitamins, antibiotics, growth
7 promoting factors whether identified or unidentified, and/or
8 correcting nutritional disorders.
- 9 • *Animal Product* - any article that can be used as human food,
10 which is made wholly or in part from any meat or other
11 portion of the carcass of any cattle, carabao, sheep, swine,
12 goat or any other animals.
- 13 • *BAI* - refers to the Bureau of Animal Industry.
- 14 • *Communicable Animal Diseases* - refers to diseases which are
15 transmissible from one animal to another or from animal to
16 human beings or vice versa.
- 17 • *Crew Provision* - refers to the food supplies of the crew
18 members of the vessels or airplane or any person on board
19 the vessel or airplane.
- 20 • *DA* - refers to the Department of Agriculture.
- 21 • *Director* - means the Director of the Bureau of Animal
22 Industry.
- 23 • *Domestic Movement* - refers to the movement of animals
24 from one province/region to another within the country.
- 25 • *Exportation* - as used in this act refers to the Act of
26 transporting commodities such as live animals, animal
27 products, animal by-products, animal effects, animal feeds,

1 veterinary drugs/products and biologics from the Philippines
2 to another country.

3 • *Exotic Animal Disease* - shall refer to any disease known to
4 exist in other countries which is likely to be introduced in the
5 country through importation of animals, animal products,
6 animal by-products or animal effects, animal feeds, veterinary
7 drug/products and biologics.

8 • *Importation* - as used in this act refers to the bringing in into
9 the country foreign commodities such as live animals, animal
10 products, animal by-products, animal effects, animal feeds,
11 veterinary drugs and biologics.

12 • *Import Permit* - is a document issued by the BAI authorizing
13 an entity/individual to import a particular animal or product
14 and other commodities. It contains SPS pre-conditions within
15 which the animal or product to be imported is subjected to by
16 the Veterinary Government Authorities at the country of
17 origin before shipment to the Philippines.

18 • *In-Transit* - refers to any cargo of the vessel or airplane that is
19 not intended for the port or airport where it has
20 docked/anchored or landed but to another port or airport of
21 its final destination.

22 • *Illegal Importation* - as used in this Act refers to any
23 importation of animal, animal products, animal by-products,
24 animal effects, animal feeds, veterinary drugs/products and
25 biologics which were imported/landed without a priorly
26 issued Authority to Import by the BAI and other valid SPS
27 documents duly issued by the country of origin.

- 1 ● *Illegal Shipment* – as used in this Act refers to any shipment
2 of animal, animal products, animal by-products, animal
3 effects, veterinary drugs/products and biologics which are
4 not covered by a priorly issued authority to ship duly issued
5 by the Bureau or his duly authorized representative.
- 6 ● *Person* - refers to any natural or juridical person such as
7 corporation, partnerships, societies, associations, firms and
8 other legal entities.
- 9 ● *Quarantine Station* - refers to the place designated by the
10 Director of the Bureau of Animal Industry or his duly
11 authorized representative where the animals are to be kept
12 for isolation and observation in order to determine their
13 disease freedom.
- 14 ● *Risk Management Measures and Policy (RMMP)* – refers to
15 the overall risk management measures being applied by DA
16 based on OIE and codex standards, which are deemed
17 necessary (ALOP). Each measure required by DA herein is an
18 integral part of the whole RMP which guarantees protection
19 of the country from the entry, establishment and spread of
20 foreign diseases and contaminations associated with the
21 importation of meat and/or meat products into the country.
22 The RMP includes all measures which have the effect of
23 verifying controls at the country of origin, the country's
24 customs areas, and post-entry areas, which take the form of,
25 but not limited to, documentation requirements, certifications
26 by appropriate bodies, packing and labeling requirements,
27 transportation and handling conditions, marketing,

1 advertising, and distribution requirements, risk
2 communication measures, and disease and contamination
3 control measures.

4 • *Secretary* - refers to the Secretary of the Department of
5 Agriculture.

6 • *Shipping Permit* - refers to the document issued by the BAI or
7 VQS authorizing the person indicated therein to ship or
8 transport the items stated therein to the specified destination.
9 The document also states the health worthiness among others
10 of the animal or product to be shipped/transported.

11 • *Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) Measures* - defined as
12 measures applied (a) to protect human or animal life from
13 risks arising from additives, contaminants, toxins or disease-
14 causing organisms in their food; (b) to protect human life
15 from plant-or animal-carried diseases; (c) to protect animal or
16 plant life from pests, diseases, or disease-causing organisms;
17 and (d) to prevent or limit other damage to a country from
18 the entry, establishment or spread of pests. This also includes
19 SPS measures taken to protect the health of fish and wild
20 fauna, as well as of forests and wild flora.

21 • *Veterinary Biologics/Biological Products* - refers to all
22 viruses, bacteria, live microorganisms, killed microorganisms,
23 components or products of microorganism, anti-sera and
24 other homologous substances whether of natural and
25 synthetic origin, intended for use in the diagnosis, treatment
26 and prophylaxis of diseases of animals or for the

1 identification of the causative organisms of a disease of
2 animals.

- 3 • *Veterinary Drugs/Products* - shall refer to any substance
4 other than food used to improve the condition of an animal
5 such as antibiotics, vitamins, minerals, hormones, feed
6 additives and other related products.
- 7 • *Veterinary Health Certificate* - refers to the certificate issued
8 by the Veterinary Quarantine Services specifying among
9 others therein that the animals, animal products, animal by-
10 products or animal effects are free from any communicable
11 animal diseases or are not carriers thereof.
- 12 • *Veterinary Quarantine* - refers to the isolation and
13 observation of animals to determine their disease freedom
14 within a definite period as determined by the Director or his
15 duly authorized representative.
- 16 • *Veterinary Quarantine Clearance (VQC)/SPS Clearance* -
17 refers to the document being issued by the Bureau of Animal
18 Industry (BAI) prior to importation indicating that based on
19 readily available information: (a) the source's of meat and/or
20 meat products are free from relevant
21 diseases/contaminations; and (b) the accreditations of both
22 the importer and the FME (exporter) are in 'good standing'.
23 The VQC also prescribes the conditions and risk management
24 measures necessary in the conduct of importation that are to
25 be observed by the importer, exporter, and the NVA at the
26 country of origin.

- *Veterinary Quarantine Service Officer*- refers to any licensed veterinarian duly appointed and/or designated by the Director of the Bureau of Animal Industry to perform veterinary quarantine functions pursuant to this Act.

SEC. 5. *Organizational Structure.*

5.1. A National Veterinary Quarantine Service (NVQS) is hereby created to implement animal quarantine laws, policies, and rules and regulations. It shall be headed by a Chief National Veterinary Quarantine Officer (CNVQO) and a Deputy Chief National Veterinary Quarantine Officer (DCNVQO). The Director and Assistant Director of BAI shall serve as ex-officio CNVQO and DCNVQO, respectively.

5.2. The NVQS shall perform its various activities through the NVQS Directorate, which shall be headed by an executive staff composed of one (1) Director with a salary grade of 26, one (1) Deputy Director with a salary grade of 25, and a sufficient number of technical and administrative support staff.

5.3. In each DA-RFU, there shall be a Regional Veterinary Quarantine Service (RVQS), which shall be headed by the Regional Veterinary Quarantine Service Officer (RVQSO) with a rank equivalent to a Division Chief, and assisted by a Supervising Veterinary Quarantine Service Officer (SVQSO) with a salary grade of 22.

5.4. The RVQS shall be under the Technical Supervision of the BAI, but under the Administrative Supervision of the RFU Regional Director or his equivalent.

1 5.5. The BAI and the various RFUs are hereby authorized to
2 reorganized, create, upgrade, and reclassify incumbent positions
3 necessary to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

4 **SEC. 6.** *Appointment of Veterinary Quarantine Officers and Staff.*

5 6.1. The Secretary of Agriculture shall appoint the Director and
6 Deputy Director of the NVQS Directorate. The technical and
7 administrative support staff shall be appointed by the Director of
8 BAI.

9 6.2. The appointment of the RVQSO and SVQSO shall be made by
10 the Regional Director.

11 6.3. The Director of the BAI shall prescribe the duties and
12 responsibilities of the personnel of the NVQS. The technical and
13 operational designation and assignment of RVQS personnel in
14 the various intra-regional/national and international air and
15 seaports shall be subject to the recommendation of the Regional
16 Director, concurrence of the Director of BAI and approval of the
17 Secretary of Agriculture.

18 **SEC. 7.** *Powers and Functions of the National Veterinary Quarantine Service*

19 *Office.* - The NVQS shall have the power and functions to:

20 7.1. To prevent the entry of animal diseases into the country in
21 accordance with internationally accepted standards and
22 procedures;

23 7.2. To constitute an effective inspection system for the inter-
24 provincial, inter-regional and international movement of
25 animals, animal products, animal by-products, animal effects,
26 animal feeds, veterinary drugs/products and biologics
27 including documentation and issuance of permit and
28 commodity clearance in relation thereto.

- 1 7.3. To prevent the spread of any communicable animal disease
2 from one province or region of the country to another.
- 3 7.4. To establish a monitoring and surveillance system to
4 determine the presence of emerging animal diseases.
- 5 7.5. To take an active role in the prevention, control and
6 eradication of communicable animal diseases.
- 7 7.6. To maintain and operate quarantine stations, holding corals
8 and other facilities/infrastructure for domestic and imported
9 animals, animal products, animal by-products, animal effects,
10 animal feeds, veterinary drugs/products and biologics in
11 such strategic places as may be determined by the Bureau.
- 12 7.7. To maintain and operate veterinary quarantine units in
13 seaports and airports throughout the country or in other
14 strategic places as determined by the Bureau of Animal
15 Industry.
- 16 7.8. To regulate the importation or exportation of animals, animal
17 products, animal by-products, animal effects, animal feeds,
18 veterinary drugs/products and biologics.
- 19 7.9. To regulate domestic movement of animals, animal products,
20 animal byproducts, animal effects, animal feeds, veterinary
21 drugs/products and biologics.
- 22 7.10. To conduct researches/studies such as risk analysis and the
23 like, necessary for the formulations of veterinary quarantine
24 rules and regulations.
- 25 7.11. To declare areas under quarantine.
- 26 7.12. To recommend to the Secretary of Agriculture, such rules and
27 regulations relative to the above powers and functions.

1 **SEC. 8. Duties and Responsibilities of Veterinary Quarantine Service Officers**

2 8.1. To inspect all animals, animal products and by-products and
3 animal effects arriving by boat, plane, truck or any other
4 means of transportation in ports, airports, railways, bus
5 terminals or in such places as he may deem necessary and to
6 perform such examination and tests as necessary for the
7 purpose of preventing the introduction and spread of
8 dangerous communicable animal diseases within the
9 Philippines.

10 8.2. To board and inspect all ships, vessels, airplane from
11 international or domestic port or airport whether it be the first
12 port of entry or not, for the purpose of determining the
13 presence therein of animals, animal products and by-
14 products, and animal effects which may introduce exotic and
15 infectious diseases of animals into the Philippines, and to
16 dispose of in any manner deemed appropriate, animals,
17 animal products and by-products and animal effects found or
18 showing signs of dangerous communicable animal diseases;
19 and to order the disposal of any spoiled or otherwise unsafe
20 food articles of animal origin found on board such ship,
21 vessels, or aircraft.

22 8.3. The master or skipper, other officers and crew members, and
23 agent of such ship, vessel or airplane concerned, shall render
24 such assistance as the VQSO or his agent may reasonably
25 request to facilitate discharge and disposal of such articles.

26 8.4. To enter, inspect and take specimen samples for laboratory
27 analysis in any animal project, establishment, farm, zoo, pet

1 shop, kennel or any other place where animals are raised,
2 bred or sheltered when there is reasonable ground to believe
3 that a dangerous communicable animal disease is present
4 among the animals therein for the purpose of controlling the
5 said infection and preventing its spread.

6 8.5. To enter, inspect and take specimen samples for laboratory
7 analysis in any store, plant, factory or any industrial ground
8 where animal meat, products and by-products, animal effects
9 and animal feeds, and veterinary biologics are being handled,
10 stored, processed, manufactured or produced when there is
11 reasonable ground to believe that said articles are infected or
12 contaminated with a dangerous communicable animal
13 disease for the purpose of controlling the disease if actually
14 found to be present.

15 8.6. To require during an outbreak of an infectious animal disease
16 the inspection, examination, test or vaccination of susceptible
17 animals in the area of infection and to adopt necessary
18 measures for the proper disposition of positive cases after
19 examination or test. The person having custody of the animal
20 to be inspected, examined shall render such assistance as the
21 VQSO or his representative may reasonably request to
22 facilitate such inspection, examination, testing, vaccination or
23 disposal as the case may be.

24 8.7. To require mass vaccination of all susceptible animals against
25 any communicable animal disease in areas of outbreaks or in
26 places found to be endemic.

- 1 8.8. To require the disposal in any manner of expendable material
2 such as litter, bedding, feed bags, chick cartoon, animal crates,
3 cage, feed, etc; suspected of being contaminated with or
4 exposed to dangerous communicable animal disease which
5 are found in any animal project, farm, pet shop, kennel or any
6 place where animals are raised, bred, kept or sheltered.
- 7 8.9. To supervise the quarantine of newly introduced domestic
8 animals and birds whether local or imported.
- 9 8.10. To perform such other related duties which may be assigned
10 to the VQSO, from time to time.

11 **SEC. 9. *Importation of Animals, Animal Products, Animal By-Product, Animal***
12 ***Effects, Animal Feed, Veterinary Drugs and Biologics.***

- 13 9.1 All importation of animals, animal products, animal by-
14 products, animal effects, animal feeds, veterinary
15 drugs/products and biologics must be accompanied by a
16 Veterinary Quarantine Clearance duly issued by the BAI, and
17 secured prior to the importation.
- 18 9.2 All importation must also be accompanied by a Veterinary
19 Health Certificate and or SPS or its equivalent and such other
20 documents as may be required by the BAI to be obtained from
21 the proper authorities of the country of origin.
- 22 9.3 All imported animals, animal products, animal by-products,
23 animal effects, animal feeds, veterinary drugs/products and
24 biologicals must be subject to quarantine inspection and
25 documentation by the NVQS at the Port of Entry and may be
26 subject to such quarantine and test as may deem appropriate
27 and necessary.
- 28 9.4 The Bureau of Customs or its representative shall not allow

1 the release of animals, animal products, animal by-products,
2 animal effects, animal feeds, veterinary drugs/products and
3 biologics unless the NVQS has issued a certification there that
4 said cargo has complied with the requirements.

5 9.5 It shall be unlawful to accept for loading at the country of
6 origin and transport and unload at any Philippine airport or
7 seaport any animals, animal products, animal by-products,
8 animal effects, animal feeds, veterinary drugs/products and
9 biologics that were not priorly issued a Veterinary Quarantine
10 Clearance by the BAI.

11 9.6 All Imported animals, animal products, animal by-products
12 and animal effects shall be put under quarantine at a
13 designated or accredited quarantine site for a period fixed
14 under the rules and regulations of the NVQS under the direct
15 supervision of the VQSO in charge.

16 9.7 No importation of animals, animal products, animal by-
17 products and animal effects shall be allowed from countries
18 known to be infected with a dangerous communicable
19 animal disease or diseases which has been banned for export
20 to the Philippines and where there is danger of spreading/
21 introducing such disease or diseases into the Philippines by
22 the importation of such items.

23 **SEC. 10.** *Exportation of Animals, Animal Products, Animal By-Products, Animal*
24 *Effects, Animal Feeds, and Veterinary Drugs and Biologics.* - No exportation of
25 animals, animal products, animal by-products animal effects, animal feeds,
26 veterinary drugs/products and biologics shall be allowed unless it is
27 accompanied by a Veterinary Health Certificate and or Commodity Clearance

1 issued by the NVQS and or has complied with the quarantine requirements of
2 the country of destination.

3 The above cargoes shall not be loaded for export without the necessary
4 Veterinary Health Certificate and or Commodity Clearance duly issued by the
5 NVQS or RVQS concerned.

6 **SEC. 11.** *Domestic Movement of Animals, Animal Products, Animal By-*
7 *Products, Animal Effects, Veterinary Drugs and Biologics.* - Shipment of animals,
8 animal products, animal by-products, animal effects, Veterinary Drugs/products
9 and biologics from one province/ region to another shall be accompanied by the
10 Veterinary Health Certificate or Shipping Permit issued by any VQSO.

11 **SEC. 12.** *Declaration of Areas or Farms under Quarantine.* - In cases of an
12 outbreak of communicable animal diseases, the Secretary of Agriculture, upon
13 recommendation of the BAI, has the power to declare the area, region, province or
14 specific farm or establishment under quarantine. However, the Regional Director
15 upon the recommendation of the NVQS or RVQS may declare a farm, an area,
16 establishment, municipality, city or province under quarantine whose declaration
17 shall not exceed seven (7) days, unless revoked or extended by the Secretary upon
18 the recommendation of the BAI and due coordination with the local government
19 units concerned.

20 It shall be the duty of local government veterinarians, animal inspectors,
21 and local officials to extend assistance to any quarantine measure initiated
22 pursuant to this provision.

23 **SEC. 13.** *Registration of Commercial Livestock and Poultry Shippers.* - All
24 commercial livestock shippers or handlers who are engaged in the inter-provincial
25 and regional shipment/transportation of livestock shall register with the
26 Veterinary Quarantine Services of the Region concerned in order to maintain
27 disease free areas and achieving safe, clean and orderly handling of commodities

1 through the various stages of marketing or distribution channels.

2 **SEC. 14.** *Collection of Regulatory Fees and Charges and Establishment of a*
3 *Revolving Fund.* - The BAI shall have the power to impose charges and fees for the
4 services rendered subject to the approval of the Secretary such as farm
5 accreditation, laboratory test, import permit fee, export permit/commodity
6 clearance fee, landing permit fee, quarantine inspection fee and other fees and
7 charges which are payable to the BAI under a continuing special trust fund that is
8 heretofore created for the purpose subject to government accounting and auditing
9 regulation.

10 *Provided that Fifty (50%) Percent of the collections mentioned-above shall*
11 *be retained by the NVQS to constitute as its revolving fund to augment the*
12 *existing appropriations thereof for the establishment of its various offices, if*
13 *necessary, and the modernization of veterinary quarantine services.*

14 **SEC. 15.** *Prescribing Standard Operating Procedures for Veterinary Quarantine*
15 *Services in all Seaports and Airports.*

16 15.1. The BAI shall establish a standard operating procedure of the
17 Veterinary Quarantine Services at the different seaports and
18 airports in the country for a well defined and smooth operation
19 of the office.

20 15.2. Veterinary Quarantine Service Officers/Inspectors are
21 authorized to render overtime work when the interest of the
22 service so requires and the services performed outside office
23 hours and other expenses shall be chargeable to the party or
24 parties served, at the rates to be prescribed by the Secretary..

25 15.3. The BAI shall have the power to promulgate rules and
26 regulations to implement the provisions of this SEC., subject to
27 the approval by the Secretary of Agriculture.

28 **SEC. 16.** *Confiscation and Destruction of Animals, Animal Products, Animal By-*

1 *products, Animal Effects, Animal Feeds, Veterinary Drugs/Products and Biologics*
2 *Illegally Imported and or found to be Infected with Communicable Animal Disease.* - The
3 VQSO or his duly deputized Inspector on duty shall have the power to confiscate
4 and destroy animals, animal products, animal by-products, animal feeds,
5 veterinary drugs/products and biologics found to be infected with communicable
6 animal disease or refuse entry of animal and animal products involved in
7 prohibited importation subject to such rules and regulations promulgated by the
8 Department of Agriculture.

9 **SEC. 17. *Non-Liability Clause.***

10 17.1. All charges for storage, demurrage, cartage, labor and delays
11 incident to the inspection, cost of disinfection and disposition
12 and other post entry requirement shall be paid by the
13 importer, exporter, shipper or consignee, as the case may be.

14 17.2. The VQSO or any other authorized personnel of the
15 Veterinary Quarantine Service/Bureau/Department shall not
16 be held liable for damages to the commodity or any other
17 damages in the course of implementation of the provisions of
18 this Act, as well as its implementing rules and regulations.

19 **SEC. 18. *Entrance and Clearance of Carrier.*** - The owner, operator, agent or
20 master of carriers plying international and/or domestic routes, are hereby
21 required to serve notice of arrival and departure and to provide inward and
22 outward cargo manifests and other declaration of said carriers to the Veterinary
23 Quarantine Service at the port. Prior to departure, the agent or master of said
24 carrier must secure a clearance from the assigned VQSO thereat.

25 The collector of Customs or his authorized agents shall require the owner,
26 agent or master of the international carrier, vessel, or airplane to secure and
27 submit a copy of the clearance from the VQS as a pre-requisite to the issuance of
28 Customs Clearance.

1 The Philippine Ports Authority (PPA), Philippine Fisheries Development
2 Authority (PFDA) and other agencies/entities managing fishports, and other
3 ports shall likewise require the owner, agent or master of carrier, or vessel to
4 secure and submit a copy of clearance from the VQS as a prerequisite to issuance
5 of clearance to depart from the port.

6 **SEC. 19.** *Food Provisions of Vessels and Airplanes.* - No food provisions or
7 garbage shall be unloaded from vessels or airplanes if there is danger that such
8 provision may introduce any communicable animal disease into the country,
9 especially if such provisions originated from areas known to be infected with any
10 communicable animal disease.

11 **SEC. 20.** *Animal and Animal Products In-Transit.* - Animals, animal
12 products, animal products, animal by-products shall not be allowed to be
13 unloaded from vessels or airplanes unless an authority from the VQS is secured.
14 The VQS may refuse its unloading if there is reasonable ground to believe that
15 such animal or animal products may introduce any communicable animal disease
16 into the country.

17 **SEC. 21.** *The Role of the Bureau of Customs, Philippine Ports Authority and*
18 *Other Port Authorities in the Enforcement of this Act.* - The Bureau of Customs,
19 Philippine Ports Authority, Air Transportation Office and other seaport and
20 airport authorities shall cooperate with the veterinary quarantine service in the
21 enforcement of this act or any rules and regulations issued in the implementation
22 thereto, and shall give effect to the same in so far as they are connected with
23 matters of shipping, navigation and transportation, or shipment/transport of
24 animals, animal products, animal by-products, animal effects, animal feeds, and
25 veterinary drugs/products and biologics.

26 **SEC. 22.** *Penalty.* - Any violation of the provisions of SEC.'s 7 -9, 16 and 20
27 of this Act and its implementing rules and regulations shall be penalized by

1 imprisonment of six (6) months and one (1) day to one (1) year, and/or a fine of
2 P6,000.00 to 20,000.00, depending upon the seriousness of the offense committed,
3 and subject to the sound discretion of the court.

4 Any violation of the provisions of SEC.'s 10, 11, 13 and 19 of this Act and its
5 implementing rules and regulations shall be penalized by imprisonment of one (1)
6 month to six (6) months, and/or a fine of P1,000.00 to P5,000.00, depending upon
7 the seriousness of the offense committed, and subject to the sound discretion of
8 the court.

9 **SEC. 23. Appropriation.** - The amount necessary for the implementation of
10 this act shall be included in the budget of the Department of Agriculture, under
11 the General Appropriations Act of each year, which shall be specifically
12 designated, in addition to the amount retained from its collection from regulatory
13 fees.

14 **SEC. 24. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** - The Secretary of Agriculture
15 shall issue rules and regulations necessary to ensure the effective implementation
16 of the provisions of this Act and impose appropriate penalties thereof.

17 **SEC. 25. Repealing Clause.** - Provisions of laws, orders, regulations and
18 issuances inconsistent with any provisions of this act are hereby repealed or
19 modified accordingly.

20 **SEC. 26. Separability Clause.** - If any portion or provision of this Act is
21 declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other portions or provisions hereof,
22 which are not affected thereby shall continue in full force and effect.

23 **SEC. 27. Effectivity** .- This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
24 publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

25 Approved.