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SENATE

Senate Bill No. 650

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INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 15 under Article 2 of the Constitution provides that, "The State shall protect and promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them."

Persons who produce or process food for human consumption have the responsibility to prevent or minimize food safety hazards related to their products. They should ensure that all fully processed or ready-to-eat food are processed in a sanitary manner in order to eliminate human pathogens or other potentially harmful substances likely to cause food-borne illness.


Hence, this bill seeks to establish a comprehensive program for the purpose of protecting human health, by ensuring that the food industry has effective program in place to assure the safety of food products consumed in the Philippines.

The immediate enactment of this bill is earnestly requested.


JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA
Senator

SENATE

Senate Bill No. 650

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INTRODUCED BY SEN. JINGGOY EJERCITO ESTRADA

AN ACT
TO ESTABLISH A COMPREHENSIVE PROGRAM TO ENSURE THE SAFETY
OF FOOD PRODUCTS INTENDED FOR HUMAN CONSUMPTION

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 the "**Consumer Food Safety Act**".

SEC. 2. Definitions. - For purposes of this Act:

- (1) the term "contaminants" includes bacteria chemical contaminants, natural toxins, viruses, parasites, and physical hazards that when found on or in food can cause human illness or injury;
- (2) the term "facility" includes any factory, warehouse, establishment, or importer that handles or processes food;
- (3) the term "process" means the commercial harvesting, preparation, manufacture, or transportation of food products;
- (4) the term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Health.

TITLE I – NATIONAL FOOD SAFETY PROGRAM

SEC. 3. Administration of National Program. -

(A) In General –

- (1) Persons who produce or process food for human consumption have the responsibility to prevent or minimize food safety hazards related in their products. The Secretary shall administer a national program for the purpose of protecting human health by ensuring that the food industry has effective programs in place to

assure the safety of food products consumed in the Philippines.

- (2) The program shall –
 - (a) be based on a comprehensive analysis of the hazards associated with different food products and with the harvesting, processing, and handling of different food products, including the identification and evaluation of –
 - (i) the severity of the potential health risks;
 - (ii) the sources and specific points of potential contamination that may render food products unsafe for human consumption; and
 - (iii) the potential for persistence, multiplication, or concentration of naturally occurring or added contaminants in foods and food products;
 - (b) take into consideration the distinctive characteristics of food production and processing;
 - (c) establish inspection and oversight procedures to monitor that facilities are utilizing preventive controls to minimize or eliminate identifiable hazards; and
 - (d) require each food processing facility to annually register with the Secretary.

(B) Program Element – The program shall provide for –

- (1) implementation of a national system for the registration and quarterly inspection of facilities and importers. Quarterly inspections can be waived by plants that meet the Secretary's standards for exceptional or negligible risk facilities or importers;
- (2) development of a program to oversee the implementation of process controls in food processing facilities;
- (3) the establishment and enforcement of health-based standards for (a) substances which may contaminate food and (b) safety and sanitation in the processing and handling of food products;
- (4) implementation of a sampling program to ensure that industry programs to prevent food contamination are effective and that food products meet the standards established in paragraph (1);
- (5) implementation of procedures and requirements to ensure the safety of imported food products;

- (6) coordination with other agencies in carrying out inspection, enforcement and monitoring;
- (7) implementation of a national surveillance system to assess the health risks associated with the human consumption of food products, in cooperation with the Secretary of Agriculture;
- (8) development of public education and advisory programs; and
- (9) implementation of a research program in furtherance of the purposes of this Act.

SEC. 4. Registration of Processors and Importers. -

- (A) *In General* – Any facility engaged in processing of food products and any person who imports food products shall register with the Secretary. Application for registration shall be made to the Secretary using such forms and containing such information as the Secretary shall prescribe by regulation within twenty four (24) months after the date of enactment of this Act. Upon receipt and review of a completed application, the Secretary shall issue to the applicant a certificate of registration unless good cause is shown why such application should be denied. The Secretary shall promptly notify any applicant of such denial, include a written explanation of the reasons for such denial, and provide an opportunity for a hearing or reapplication upon request.
- (B) *Suspension of Registration* –
 - (1) The registration may be suspended immediately by the Secretary for –
 - (a) failure to permit access for inspection under this Act;
 - (b) violation of this Act or regulation issued under this Act, where the Secretary determines that such suspension is likely to prevent a significant risk of adverse health consequences; or
 - (c) conviction of the applicant or registrant of –
 - (i) any felony other than a felony based upon the acquiring, handling, or distribution of adulterated or misbranded food; or
 - (ii) more than one violation of any law other than a violation involving any fraud in connection with transactions in food.
 - (2) Any registration suspended under paragraph (1) may be reinstated whenever the Secretary determines that suspension is no longer necessary.

- (C) *Exemption Authority-* The Secretary may by regulation exempt classes of facilities from the requirements of subsection (A) if the Secretary determines that the registration of such facilities or persons is not needed for effective enforcement of this Act.

SEC. 5. Process Controls to Reduce the Adulteration of Food Products. -

- (a) *In General-* The Secretary shall, upon the basis of the best available scientific and technological data, prescribe regulations to

- (1) limit the presence of human pathogens and other potentially harmful substances in food products;
- (2) ensure that a registered facilities implement appropriate measures to control and reduce the presence and growth of human pathogens and other potentially harmful substances on food products;
- (3) ensure that all fully processed or ready-to-eat food products are processed in a sanitary manner, using reasonably available techniques and technologies to eliminate any human pathogens or other potentially harmful substances likely to cause food borne illness; and
- (4) ensure that food products intended for final processing outside commercial establishments are labeled with instructions for handling and preparation for consumption which, when adhered to, will destroy any human pathogens or other potentially harmful substance likely to cause food borne illness.

- (b) *Regulations -* The Secretary shall, within one year from the enactment of this Act, issue regulations that require all registered facilities to adopt processing controls adequate to protect public health and to limit the presence and growth of human pathogens and other potentially harmful substances in food products prepared in any registered facility. Such regulations shall –

- (1) set standards for sanitation;
- (2) set tolerances for biological, chemical and physical hazards as appropriate;
- (3) require process controls to assure that food is safe and that relevant regulatory and safety standards are met;
- (4) require recordkeeping to monitor compliance;
- (5) require sampling to assure that processing controls are effective and that regulatory standards are being met; and,
- (6) provide for agency access to records kept by official establishments and submission of copies of such records to the Secretary as the Secretary deems appropriate.

The Secretary may, as he deems necessary, require any person, firm or corporation with responsibility for or control over food ingredients to adopt processing controls, where such processing controls are needed to assure the protection of public health.

SEC. 6. *Inspections of Processors and Importers.* –

(a) *Nature of Inspection* –

- (1) The inspection system shall provide for frequent unannounced inspections of food processing and importing facilities to determine if such facilities are operated in a sanitary manner and if food products are unsafe for human consumption, or adulterated or misbranded. Inspections shall include review of processing records and sampling of food products.
- (2) Inspections shall be conducted at least quarterly, unless the Secretary determines that the facility, is an exceptional or negligible-risk facility under standards established by the Secretary.
- (3) Standards for exceptional or negligible-risk facilities shall consider the hazards associated with the type of product being produced, and the facility's history of compliance, food safety problems and such other factors as the Secretary may deem appropriate. The Secretary shall specify an alternative inspection frequency for each facility which is deemed exceptional or negligible-risk. Each inspection shall include an examination of whether the facility continues to meet the standards for exceptional or negligible-risk facilities.

(b) *Conduct of Inspections* –

- (1) An inspection under subsection (a) of any domestic, foreign or importing facility shall extend to all things therein (including records required to be maintained under subsection (e) processes, controls, and premises) that bear on whether food products are in compliance with this Act. Access to records may include the copying of such records.
- (2) In conducting such inspections, officers or employees duly designated by the Secretary, upon presenting appropriate credentials to the owner, operator, or agent in charge, are authorized:
 - (i) to enter at reasonable times any facility in which persons are engaged in the food processing or importing of food products or to enter any vehicle being used to transport or hold such food products;
 - (ii) to inspect in a reasonable manner such facility or vehicle and all pertinent equipment, finished and

unfinished materials, containers labeling, processes, controls, and premises; and

(iii) to collect and retain samples of food products or ingredients or of any other items found during an inspection that may contribute to a finding of whether such food products are unsafe for human consumption or adulterated or misbranded.

(3) Immediately after completion of inspection, the Officer or employee making the inspection shall give to the owner, operator, or agent in charge a report in writing setting forth any conditions or practices observed which indicate that either processing controls are inadequate to prevent or minimize food safety hazards or that any food from such facility is unsafe for human consumption, or adulterated or misbranded.

(c) *Product Detention and Condemnation.* –

(1) If, during an inspection conducted under this section, an officer or employee making the inspection has reason to believe that a food product is unsafe for human consumption, or adulterated or misbranded, such officer or employee may order the food product segregated, impounded, and if objection is not made within forty eight (48) hours, condemned. If objection is made, such food products that are in perishable form may be processed to the extent necessary to prevent spoilage, and a hearing shall be commenced expeditiously.

(2) If the Secretary determines that, through re-labeling or other action, such food products can be brought into compliance with this Act, the food may be released following a determination by the Secretary that such re-labeling or other action as specified by the - Secretary has been performed.

(3) Any food product condemned without objection, or after hearing and judicial review, shall be destroyed under supervision of the Secretary.

(d) *Official Mark* - The Secretary shall prescribe by regulation the conditions under which any food product shall display an official mark, when needed to facilitate exports, that signifies that the food product has been processed in accordance with standards approved by the Secretary. Such a mark may be subject to a fee.

(e) *Maintenance of Records* - Each facility or person registered under this section shall maintain and make available for inspection by the Secretary such records as the Secretary may prescribe. Such records shall be maintained for a reasonable period of time as determined by the Secretary. The records shall include, but are not limited to, information concerning-

(1) the origin, receipt, delivery, sale, movement, holding, and disposition of food products or ingredients; the

- identity and amount of ingredients used in the food; the processing of the food, the results of laboratory, sanitation, or other quality control tests performed on the food or in the facility; consumer complaints concerning the food or its packaging; and
- (2) other matters reasonably related to whether food products may be unsafe for human consumption, or adulterated or misbranded.

SEC. 7. Tolerances for Contaminants in Food -

- (A) *Tolerances* - The Secretary shall establish tolerances limiting the quantity of contaminants, that, when found in food products, may render such products unsafe for human consumption. Contaminants include but are not limited to bacteria, chemical contaminants, natural toxins, viruses and parasites that when found on or in food can cause human illness. Such tolerances may include indicators (including indicator organisms) from which it may reasonably be inferred that a contaminant is present in a food product. In developing a tolerance, the Secretary shall take into account the extent to which consumers may be exposed to such contaminant from sources other than food, and the extent to which such contaminant can be avoided or minimized in the commercial handling and processing of such food.
- (B) *Regulations* -
- (1) The Secretary, after notice and an opportunity for comment, shall promulgate regulations to implement subsection (A) within forty eight (48) months after the date of enactment of this Act. In promulgating such regulations, the Secretary shall establish tolerances for the contaminants that the Secretary determines are having the greatest public health impact as early as feasible after implementation of this Act.
- (2) A tolerance established under this section shall be based on-
- (a) a scientific analysis of the health risks attributable to the contaminant for which the tolerance is established; and
- (b) analysis of the risks for sensitive groups, such as children, elderly, pregnant women and the immune compromised.
- (3) The Secretary shall, in a timely manner, issue revisions to the regulations under paragraph (1) which take into account new information.
- (C) *Report*. - The Secretary shall report to the Congress on the progress in establishing tolerances under this section. The report shall include a description of the research that has been conducted with respect to such tolerances and the research that must be conducted before additional tolerances may be established, the health significance of the lack of such additional tolerances, a timetable for the establishment of such tolerances, and the

estimated costs, including costs of research, associated with the establishment of such tolerances. The report shall be transmitted on or about the end of the 18th month after the date of enactment of this Act, and biennially thereafter during the 6-year period that begins on such date of enactment.

SEC. 8. Imports. -

- (A) *Role of the Secretary.* - Within twenty (24) months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall establish and administer a comprehensive and efficient system to ensure the safety of food imported into the Philippines.

The Secretary shall routinely inspect processing facilities in exporting nations and imports at ports of entry into the country. The Secretary shall assure the effective operation through verification and other activities as the Secretary considers necessary.

- (B) *Import Requirements –*

- (1) No food product may enter the Philippines, or be withdrawn from a warehouse, for consumption in the Philippines if such food product-

- (a) appears unsafe for human consumption, or adulterated or misbranded;
- (b) is not marked or labeled as required by regulations for domestic or imported articles; or
- (c) does not comply with the requirements of this section.

- (2) Upon entry for consumption in the Philippines, food products that are not prohibited from entry or from withdrawal from a warehouse under paragraph (1) shall be deemed to be and treated as domestic food products, except that all labeling of such products shall clearly identify the country of origin to facilitate the identification of products linked to outbreaks of illness.

- (C) *Inspection of Imports –*

- (1) Food products that are offered for importation, or withdrawn from a warehouse, for consumption in the Philippines, shall be subject to examinations, inspections, sampling, and such other procedures at the port of entry or in the exporting nation by officers or employees duly designated by the Secretary. Such procedures shall be conducted with such frequency and in such manner as the Secretary may prescribe by regulation.

- (2) Food products from a nation that is certified for such food products under subsection (e)(3) shall be subject to random examinations, inspections, sampling, and

other procedures. Food products from a nation that is not certified for such food products under subsection (e)(3) shall be subject to such intensified examinations, inspections, sampling, and other verification procedures, including inspection in the country of origin, as the Secretary determines are necessary to ensure compliance with this Act.

(D) *Detention of Imported Food Product.* - If during an inspection or other verification procedure carried out under this section, an officer or employee conducting the procedure has reason to believe that a food product is unsafe for human consumption, or adulterated or misbranded, such officer or employee may order the food product segregated, impounded, and if objection is not made within forty eight (48) hours, condemned. If objection is made, such food products that are in perishable form may be processed to the extent necessary to prevent spoilage, and a hearing shall be commenced expeditiously. The final condemnation or other disposition of such food product shall be subject to the provisions of this Act.

(E) *Agreement with Foreign Relations* -

(1) The Secretary may enter into an agreement with any nation desiring to export food products to the Philippines. Prior to concluding such an agreement, the Secretary shall evaluate the food safety program of the foreign nation to determine if such program provides at least the same level of protection, with respect to food products intended for export to the Philippines, as domestic laws that affect the safety of the food supply. In such evaluation, the Secretary shall consider –

- (a) the potential for health, sanitary, environmental, or other conditions within the foreign nation to adversely affect the safety of food products exported from such nation; and
- (b) how well the food safety programs of the foreign nation functions to minimize any adverse effects on such safety.

(2) Any agreement under this subsection with a nation desiring to export food products to the Philippines shall –

- (a) require that the exporting nation shall –
 - (i) establish and maintain a food safety system that is adequate to ensure that the food products intended for export to the Philippines are safe for human consumption, and not adulterated or misbranded; and,
 - (ii) promptly notify the Secretary of any violations affecting the safety of food

products exported or intended for export to the Philippines;

- (b) provide for such activities (whether in the exporting nation or at the port of entry during importation) by the Secretary, including examinations, inspections, sampling, and testing, at such stages in the growth or harvest of food, or in the processing or handling of food products, as the Secretary considers appropriate to ensure that the food safety program of the exporting nation continues to provide at least the same level of protection, with respect to food products intended for export to the Philippines, as domestic laws that affect the safety of the food supply; and
 - (c) provide for reciprocity with respect to the treatment of food imports and exports between the Philippines and the exporting nation.
- (3) If the Secretary determines that a nation desiring to export food products to the Philippines has a program that provides at least the same level of protection, with respect to food products intended for export to the Philippines, as domestic laws that affect the safety of the food supply, the Secretary shall, upon entry into force of an agreement under subsection (e)(1), certify the types of food products for which the nation maintains such a program.
- (4) (a) The Secretary shall periodically or for good cause, and not less than once every three (3) years, review certifications made under paragraph (3), and shall revoke the certification of any nation that the Secretary determines is not maintaining a food safety program that provides at least the same level of protection, with respect to food products intended for export to the Philippines, as domestic laws that affect the safety of the food supply.
- (b) The Secretary shall review and modify, as needed, an agreement made under paragraph (1) with any nation whose certification has been revoked under subparagraph (A) of this paragraph.

TITLE II – RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

SEC. 9. *Public Health Assessment System -*

(A) Public Health Sampling –

- (1) Within twelve (12) months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary in cooperation with the Secretary of

Agriculture shall establish guidelines for a sampling system under which the Secretary and the Secretary of Agriculture shall take and analyze samples of food products to assist the Secretary in carrying out this Act and to more accurately assess the nature, frequency of occurrence, and amounts of contaminants in food products.

- (2) Such sampling system shall provide –
 - (a) statistically valid monitoring, including market-basket studies, on the nature, frequency of occurrence, and amounts of contaminants in food products available to consumers; and
 - (b) at the request of the Secretary, such other information, including analysis of monitoring and verification samples, as the Secretary determines may be useful in assessing the occurrence of contaminants in food products.
- (B) Assessment of Health Hazards - Through the surveillance system referred to in subsection (a) and the sampling system described in subsection (b), the Secretary shall rank food categories based on their hazard to human health and identify appropriate industry and regulatory approaches to minimize hazards in the food supply. Such analysis could include –
 - (1) the safety of commercial harvesting and processing, as compared with the health hazards associated with food products that are harvested for recreational or subsistence purposes and prepared non-commercially;
 - (2) the safety of food products that are domestically harvested and processed, as compared with the health hazards associated with food products that are harvested or processed outside the Philippines; and
 - (3) contamination originating from handling practices that occur prior to or after sale of food products to consumers.

SEC. 10. Public Education and Advisory System. -

- a) *Public Education* - The Secretary, in cooperation with private and public organizations, shall design and implement a national public education program on food safety. The program shall provide –
 - (1) information to the public regarding standards and good practice requirements and promotion of public awareness understanding and acceptance of such standards and requirements;
 - (2) information to health professionals so that they may improve diagnosis and treatment of food-related illness and advise individuals whose health conditions place them in particular risk; and

- (3) such other information or advice to consumers and other persons as the Secretary determines will promote the purposes of this Act.
- b) *Health Advisories*- The Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Environment and Natural Resources, shall work to –
- (1) develop and distribute regional and national advisories concerning food safety; and
 - (2) develop standardized formats for written and broadcast advisories.

SEC. 11. Research. -

- (a) *In General* - The Secretary shall conduct research to assist in the implementation of this Act, including studies to –
- (1) improve sanitation and food safety practices in the processing of food products;
 - (2) develop improved techniques for the monitoring of food and inspection of food products;
 - (3) develop efficient, rapid, and sensitive methods for determining and detecting the presence of contaminants in food products;
 - (4) determine the sources of contamination of food and food products with contaminants; and
 - (5) develop consumption data with respect to food products.
- (b) *Contract Authorization*. - The Secretary is authorized to enter into contracts and agreements with the University of the Philippines or any state university or any other university, other government agencies or other persons to carry out the activities under this section.

TITLE III – ENFORCEMENT

SEC. 12. Notification and Recall. -

- (A) *Notice To the Secretary of Adulteration or Misbranding* - Any person (other than a household consumer or other individual who is the intended consumer of an article of food) that has a reasonable basis for believing that any article of food introduced into or in interstate commerce, or held for sale (whether or not the first sale) after shipment in interstate commerce, may be adulterated or misbranded or otherwise in violation of appropriate laws shall immediately notify the Secretary, in such manner and by such means as the Secretary may by regulation prescribe, of the identity and location of such article.
- (B) *Recall and Consumer Notification* –

- (1) *Voluntary Procedures*- If the Secretary finds, upon notification under subsection (a) or otherwise, that any article of food is adulterated or misbranded when introduced into or while held for sale (whether or not the first sale) after shipment in interstate commerce and there is a reasonable probability that such article, if consumed, would present a threat to public health, as determined by the Secretary, the Secretary shall provide the appropriate persons (including the manufacturers, importers, distributors, or retailers) with an opportunity to –
 - (a) cease distribution of such article;
 - (b) notify all persons
 - (i) producing, manufacturing, packing, processing, preparing, treating, packaging, distributing, or holding such article; or
 - (ii) to which such article has been distributed, transported, or sold, to immediately cease distribution of such article;
 - (c) recall such article;
 - (d) provide, in consultation with the Secretary, notice to consumers to whom such article was, or may have been, distributed; or
 - (e) take any combination of the above measures, as appropriate in the circumstances.

- (2) *Pre-hearing Order To Cease Distribution And Give Notice* - If such person refuses to or does not voluntarily cease distribution, make notification, recall such article, or provide notice to consumers, as applicable, within the time and in the manner prescribed by the Secretary, the Secretary shall, by order, require, as the Secretary deems necessary, such person to –
 - (a) immediately cease distribution of such article;
 - (b) immediately notify all persons
 - (i) producing, manufacturing, packing, processing, preparing, treating, packaging, distributing, or holding such article, or
 - (ii) to which such article has been distributed, transported, or sold, to immediately cease distribution of such article; or
 - (c) immediately take the actions specified in both subparagraphs (a) and (b).

- (3) *Notification of Consumers By Secretary.* - The Secretary shall, he deems necessary, provide notice to consumers to whom such article was, or may have been, distributed.

(C) *Hearing On Order.* - The Secretary shall provide any person subject to an order under subsection (b) with an opportunity for a hearing, to be held as soon as possible but not later than 2 days after the issuance of the order, on the actions required by the order and on why the article that is the subject of the order should not be recalled.

(D) *Post Hearing Recall Order* –

(1) *Amendment of Order.* - If, after providing opportunity for a hearing under subsection (c), the Secretary determines that there is a reasonable probability that the article that is the subject of an order under subsection (b), if consumed, presents a threat to public health, the Secretary, as he deems necessary, may –

(a) amend the order to require recall of such article or other appropriate action;

(b) specify a timetable in which the recall shall occur;

(c) require periodic reports to the Secretary describing the progress of the recall; and,

(d) provide notice to consumers to whom such article was, or may have been distributed.

(2) *Vacation of Order.* - If, after such a hearing, the Secretary determines that adequate grounds do not exist to continue the actions required by the order, the Secretary shall vacate the order.

(E) *Remedies Not Exclusive*- The remedies provided in this section shall be in addition to and not exclusive of other remedies that may be available.

SEC. 13. Civil Penalties.-

(a) *In General* –

(1) *Acts Subject To Penalty; Penalty Amount.*- Any person that commits an act that violates this Act may be assessed a civil penalty by the Secretary, subject to review in accordance with the administrative code and other pertinent laws, of not more than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00) for such act. Each such act and each day during which such act continues shall be a separate offense.

(2) *Notice and Hearing.* - No penalty shall be assessed by the Secretary under this section unless such person is given notice and opportunity for a hearing on the record before the Secretary in accordance with laws pertinent to administrative proceedings.

(3) *Other Requirements.* - The amount of such civil penalty shall be assessed by the Secretary by written order, taking into account the gravity of the violation, degree of culpability, size and type of business, and any history of prior offenses;

- (b) *Collection Actions.* - If any person fails to pay an assessment of a civil penalty after it has become a final and unappealable order, the Secretary shall refer the matter to the Solicitor General who shall institute a civil action to recover the amount. In such collection action, the validity and appropriateness of the Secretary's order imposing the civil penalty shall not be subject to review.
- (c) *Secretary's Discretion To Prosecute.* - Nothing in this Act shall be construed as requiring the Secretary to report for prosecution, or for the institution of libel or injunction proceedings, violations of this Act whenever the Secretary believes that the public interest will be adequately served by assessment of civil penalties,
- (d) *Remedies Not Exclusive.* - The remedies provided in this section shall be in addition to and not exclusive of other remedies that may be available.

SEC. 14. Whistleblower Protection. - No employee or other person may be harassed, prosecuted, held liable, or discriminated against in any way because that person-

- (1) has commenced, caused, to be commenced, or is about to commence a proceeding, testified or is about to testify in a proceeding, or assisted or participated or is about to assist or participate in any manner in such a proceeding or in any other action to carry out the purposes, functions, or responsibilities set forth in this Act;
- (2) is refusing to violate or assist in violation of law, rule, or regulation.

SEC. 15. Trace Back. - The Secretary may impose on a food product requirements for the traceability of such type or class of food product whenever such requirements are necessary to assure the protection of the public health. Traceability requirements shall be established in accordance with regulations and guidelines issued by the Secretary.

SEC. 16. Citizen's Civil Action. - Any person may commence a civil action against-

- (1) any person who violated any rule, tolerance, order, or other action of the Secretary to ensure the safety of food products; or
- (2) the Secretary where there is alleged failure of the Secretary to perform any act or duty to ensure the safety of food products, which is not discretionary.

TITLE IV – AUTHORIZATION

SEC. 17. Authorization of Appropriations. –

- (a) *In General-* Such sums as may be necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act is hereby authorized to be appropriated from the National Treasury.

(b) *Research Program Authorization* - Of the funds authorized to be appropriated under subsection (a), there are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out the research program authorized by this Act.

SEC. 18. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision or part hereof, is held invalid or unconstitutional, the remainder of the law or the provision not otherwise affected shall remain valid and subsisting.

SEC. 19. *Repealing Clause.* - Any Law, Presidential Decree or Issuance, Executive Order, Letter of Instruction, Administrative Order, Rule or Regulation contrary to or inconsistent with the provision of this Act is hereby repealed, modified or amended accordingly.

SEC. 20. *Effectivity Cause.* - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,