

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

First Regular Session
THIRTEENTH CONGRESS

House Bill No. 444



Introduced by Rep. Manuel "Way Kurat" E. Zamora

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The weighing scale is a powerful tool in the marketing of agricultural and commercial products especially in the countryside. Sellers and consumers extensively use it to determine the price of the goods up for marketing. Through it, the total monetary equivalent of a certain product is deduced from the corresponding weight reflected on the weighing scale used. The weighing scale dictates the margins of profits and losses. Depending on the intended purpose, it is therefore a common phenomenon that unscrupulous sellers and traders manipulate their weighing scales to make it appear that a commodity weighs more or weighs less than what it actually weighs in a standardized and "honest" weighing scale. As a case in point, small farmers who sell their produce to buy-and-sell middlemen are usually on the losing end of the deal because of defective or manipulated weighing scales. Most of them do not know how to protect themselves. Trust on the weighing instrument is often abused.

One of the mandates of the Department of Trade and Industry is to see to it that consumers are protected from scheming businessmen who use all tricks to ensure that their weighing scales serve their ends—to rake in more profits. Regular inspections by agents of the agency are being done to make certain that the weighing scales being used are "honest" instruments. The problem is that after the agents are done with their inspection, there is no assurance that the weighing scales still reflect the true weight of the products. As such, rampant cases of undervaluing or overvaluing of goods sold by weights are perpetrated.

The only effective solution to the problem is giving the consumers the power to ensure that the weighing instruments being used in the trade are "honest." This bill proposes to enforce the same by providing them a standardized metal weight weighing a kilogram to allow them to check whether or not the weighing scales being used to weigh their products are, indeed, "honest."

This proposal will be most effective in the countryside especially to small farmers who are marketing their produce. It will also save the government time and money by doing away with regular inspections on the accuracy of weighing scales being used

The immediate passage of this bill is earnestly requested.


MANUEL "WAY KURAT" E. ZAMORA

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AN ACT MANDATING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRADE AND INDUSTRY TO PROVIDE EVERY BARANGAY TEN (10) PIECES OF STANDARDIZED METAL WEIGHTS WEIGHING ONE (1) KILOGRAM EACH TO BE PUT UNDER THE CUSTODY OF THE BARANGAY CAPTAIN AND LOANED FOR FREE TO ANY BARANGAY RESIDENT WHO WISHES TO CHECK THE ACCURACY OF THE WEIGHING SCALE BEING USED IN THE MARKETING OF ANY PRODUCT WHICH PRICE IS DETERMINED BY WEIGHT AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. The Department of Trade and Industry is hereby mandated to provide every barangay ten (10) pieces of standardized metal weights weighing one (1) kilogram each.

SEC. 2. The metal weights shall be put under the custody of the barangay captain and loaned for free to any barangay resident who wishes to check the accuracy of the weighing scale being used in the marketing of any product which price is determined by weight

SEC. 3. The Secretary of Trade and Industry shall formulate the necessary rules and regulations for the implementation of this Act.

SEC. 4. The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be charged on the General Appropriations Act of the year following its enactment into law.

SEC. 7. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

Approved,