13TH CONGRESS OF THE
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
First Regular Session



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

House Bill No. 1119

INTRODUCED BY **HON. CYNTHIA A. VILLAR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Agreement of the Application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures contained in the Agreement Establishing the World Trade Organization recognizes the important contribution of international standards, guidelines and recommendations for animal health developed under the auspices of the *Office International des Epizooties (OIE).*

During the OIE 63rd General Session held on May 27, 1998, the International Committee adopted Resolution XI entitled: "Establishment of a list of Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) free countries where vaccination is not practiced." Aside from the resolution, the OIE publishes annually in its "bulletin" the list of OIE recognized member-countries where vaccination is not practiced in accordance with Chapter 2.1.1. of the International Animal Health Code.

On the local front, the Department of Agriculture's policy statement on Foot-and-Mouth Disease (FMD) recognizes that FMD is an OIE list-A disease and represents the greatest threat to the Philippine livestock industry, domestic food security and its export markets. This is so because FMD has the potential for rapid and extensive spread and an outbreak would jeopardize the domestic use and export of all cloven-hoofed animals and their products. In pursuance of its policy mandate to eradicate FMD in the shortest possible period while limiting the economic impact, a FMD Task Force was created for which the appropriate funding has been established.

The Department of Agriculture further recognizes that the global risk from FMD is changing as countries and trading blocs achieve national or regional freedom from the disease. Thus, the Department of Agriculture emphasizes the need for the country to attain FMD-free status as early as possible in order for the Philippines to regain lost international markets as a result of previous outbreaks.

Approval of this Bill is earnestly recommended.

CYNTHIA A. VILLAR

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House Bill No. _____

INTRODUCED BY **HON. CYNTHIA A. VILLAR**

AN ACT ALLOWING THE IMPORTATION OF LIVE ANIMALS, MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS ONLY FROM ZONES DECLARED BY THE *OFFICE INTERNATIONAL DES EPIZOOTIES (OIE)* AS "FMD (FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE) FREE ZONES WHERE VACCINATION IS NOT PRACTICED"

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

SECTION 1. *Title.* – This Act shall be known as the "Foot and Mouth Disease Eradication Act of 2004."

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* – Recognizing that the livestock industry has the potential for engendering the development of the countryside and enhancing food security, and serving as an instrument for employment generation and economic growth, it is hereby declared the policy of the State to promote the eradication of foot and mouth disease through the prevention of the entry of additional FMD stereotypes into the country.

SEC. 3. *Importation of Live Animals, Meat and Meat Products.* – Only live animals, meat and meat products originating from zones declared by the *Office International des Epizooties (OIE)* in its periodically published bulletins as FMD-free zones, where vaccination is not practiced, shall be allowed to be imported into the Philippines.

SEC. 4. *Implementing Rules.* – The Secretary of Agriculture shall, upon the recommendation of the Director of the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) and the Executive Director of the National Meat Inspection Commission (NMIC), promulgate the rules and regulations necessary for the effective implementation of this Act not later than one hundred twenty (120) days from the signing of this Bill into law. The said agencies shall ensure that the ports of exit are FMD-free before allowing the importation of live animals, meat and meat products into the country.

SEC. 5. *Penal Clause.* – Any person who violates the provisions of this Act shall be punished with a fine of not less than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00) or imprisonment of six (6) months to six (6) years, or both, at the discretion of the court: *Provided,* That if the violator is a corporation, the president, the vice-president(s), secretary, treasurer and members of the board of directors shall be individually imposed the above penalties: *Provided, further,* That public officials who are instrumental in permitting the entry of such live animals, meat and meat products in violation of this Act shall be meted out the same penalties; and: *Provided, finally,* That the live animals, meat and meat products imported in violation of this Act shall be subject to confiscation and destroyed immediately in the appropriate manners to prevent the spread of foot and mouth disease.

SEC. 6. *Repealing Clause.* – All Acts and regulations contrary to or inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 7. *Effectivity Clause.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publications in the *Official Gazette* or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,