

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

15TH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4624

Introduced by **REP. MARK LLANDRO L. MENDOZA**

AN ACT
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9296, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE
MEAT INSPECTION CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES" AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

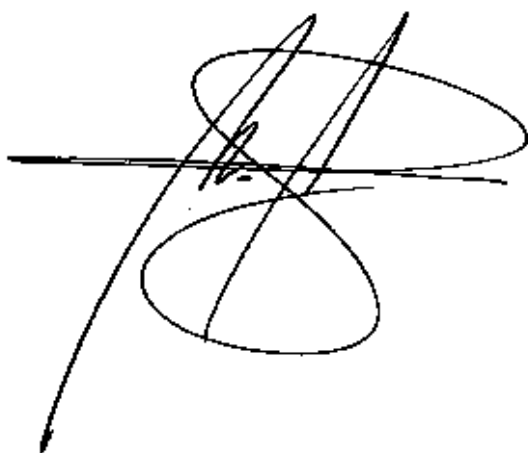
The widespread and unmitigated trade of meat and meat products from dead or diseased animals or from animals which have not passed ante-mortem and post-mortem inspection by competent authorities is a very serious health hazard to consumers and a threat to the livestock and poultry industry in the country.

The transport of "Hot Meat" and its proliferation in the market especially during the months leading to the Christmas Season contributes largely to the spread of deadly diseases among livestock and poultry

Aside from the widespread and unmitigated trade of "Hot Meat" another concern that must be addressed is the proliferation of "illegally imported meat and meat products" in various meat outlets in the country. This "illegally imported meat and meat products" is not only an economic concern, but also a very serious health hazard to the consumers considering that this meat and meat products has not passed the Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS) requirements of the country. These products have not passed the inspection process by the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) on biosecurity, and the National Meat Inspection Service (NMIS) on Food Safety. Aside from the health hazard to consumers, it is also a major threat to the existence of our livestock and poultry industry, especially that most of these meat and meat products are coming from countries that are not free from highly communicable and zoonotic animal diseases.

Despite this grave consequences in the trade and proliferation of these "Hot Meat" and illegally meat products, the penalties imposed under the existing Meat Inspection Code of the Philippines is not enough, as it imposes only a fine and confiscation of the goods.

Thus in order to protect the meat consuming public as well as the livestock and poultry industry, this bill seeks to amend certain provision of the Republic Act No. 9296, otherwise known as "The Meat Inspection Code of the Philippines" by imposing higher and reasonable penalties therein and to penalize those who may in one way or the other have cooperated in the commission of the crime.

A handwritten signature in black ink, featuring a large, stylized 'S' or 'B' shape with a horizontal line crossing through it.

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

15TH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4624

Introduced by **REP. MARK LLANDRO L. MENDOZA**

AN ACT
AMENDING REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9296, OTHERWISE KNOWN AS "THE
MEAT INSPECTION CODE OF THE PHILIPPINES" AND FOR OTHER
PURPOSES

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

Section 1. Section 4 of Republic Act 9296 is hereby amended by adding a new subsection to be designated as subsection 37 to read as follows:

“ Sec. 4. Definition of Terms.

37. HOT MEAT – REFERS TO CARCASS OR PARTS OF CARCASS OF FOOD ANIMALS WHICH WAS SLAUGHTERED FROM UNREGISTERED/UNACCREDITED MEAT ESTABLISHMENTS AND HAS NOT UNDERGONE THE REQUIRED INSPECTION. IT ALSO INCLUDES UNDOCUMENTED, ILLEGALLY SHIPPED, AND UNREGISTERED CARCASS AND PARTS OF CARCASS COMING FROM OTHER COUNTRIES AND THOSE THAT ARE CLASSIFIED AS SUCH BY THE NMIS AS HOT MEAT.

Section 2. Section 56 of Republic Act No. 9296 is hereby amended to read as follows:

SEC. 56. PENALTIES AND FINES – ANY PERSON, FIRM OR CORPORATION WHO SHALL TRANSPORT, SELL OR OTHERWISE DISPOSE OF CARCASSES, ORGANS OR PARTS THEREOF FOR FOOD WHICH HAVE NOT PASSED ANTE-MORTEM AND POST-MORTEM INSPECTION BY COMPETENT AUTHORITY,

OR WHO SHALL FALSIFY, FORGE OR ALTER ANY ACCOMPANYING CERTIFICATE OR OTHER DOCUMENT OR PAPER ISSUED BY THE NATIONAL MEAT INSPECTION SERVICE (NMIS) OR NMIS DEPUTIZED LOCAL GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL, OR WHO SHALL FORGE THE NMIS OR LGU SEAL OR TAG ON SAID CARCASSES, ORGANS OR PARTS SHALL UPON CONVICTION, SUFFER A PENALTY OF IMPRISONMENT RANGING FROM A PERIOD OF NOT LESS THAN SIX (6) MONTHS AND ONE (1) DAY BUT NOT MORE THAN SIX (6) YEARS OR PAY A FINE OF NOT LESS THAN TWENTY FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P25,000.00) BUT NOT MORE THAN FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P500,000.00), OR BOTH AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COURT. ACCOMPLICES AND ACCESSORIES IN THE CRIME SHALL SUFFER A PENALTY OF IMPRISONMENT OF NOT LESS THAN THREE (3) MONTHS AND ONE (1) DAY BUT NOT MORE THAN THREE (3) YEARS OR PAY A FINE OF NOT LESS THAN TEN THOUSAND PESOS (P10,000.00) BUT NOT MORE THAN TWO HUNDRED FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (P250,000.00), OR BOTH AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COURT.

ANY PERSON, FIRM OR CORPORATION WHO SHALL STORE, TRANSPORT, SELL OR OTHERWISE DISPOSE OF MEAT AND MEAT PRODUCTS WHICH HAS BEEN BROUGHT TO THE COUNTRY WITHOUT AUTHORITY FROM THE NMIS AND THE BUREAU OF ANIMAL INDUSTRY SHALL SUFFER A PENALTY OF IMPRISONMENT RANGING FROM ONE (1) YEAR AND ONE (1) DAY TO TEN (10) YEARS OR PAY A FINE OF NOT LESS THAN ONE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P100,000.00) BUT NOT MORE THAN ONE MILLION PESOS (P1,000,000.00) OR MORE THAN THE VALUE OF THE ILLEGALLY IMPORTED ITEM IN HIS/HER POSITION, OR BOTH AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COURT. ACCOMPLICES AND ACCESSORIES OF THE CRIME SHALL SUFFER A PENALTY OF IMPRISONMENT RANGING FROM SIX (6) MONTHS AND ONE (1) DAY TO FIVE (5) YEARS OR PAY A FINE OF NOT LESS THAN FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (P50,000.00) BUT NOT MORE THAN FIVE HUNDRED THOUSAND PESOS (P500,000.00), OR BOTH AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COURT.

IN ADDITION TO THE ABOVE PENALTIES, CONFISCATION OF THE ITEMS INVOLVED AS WELL AS IMPOUNDING AND CANCELLATION OF REGISTRATION OR FRANCHISE OF THE VEHICLE OR CONVEYANCE USED IN THE TRANSPORT OF SAID ILLEGAL PRODUCTS IS A MUST. LIKEWISE, LIVESTOCK AND POULTRY FARMS AND OTHER MEAT

ESTABLISHMENTS WHICH ARE THE SOURCE OF THE "HOT MEAT" IF FOUND GUILTY TO HAVE PARTICIPATED IN THE COMMISSION OF THE CRIME SHALL SUFFER AN ADDITIONAL PENALTY OF CANCELLATION OF BUSINESS PERMIT AND CLOSURE OF THE FARM OR ESTABLISHMENT.

ALL OTHER VIOLATIONS OF THE PROVISIONS OF REPUBLIC ACT NO. 9296 SHALL BE PENALIZED WITH IMPRISONMENT RANGING FROM TWO (2) MONTHS TO NOT MORE THAN TWO (2) YEARS OR PAY A FINE OF NOT LESS THAN FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (P5,000.00) BUT NOT MORE THAN FIFTY THOUSAND PESOS (P50,000.00), OR BOTH AT THE DISCRETION OF THE COURT.

THE SECRETARY OF AGRICULTURE, BY REGULATION, SHALL ISSUE A SCHEDULE OF ADMINISTRATIVE FINES AND OTHER PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF RA NO. 9296.

Section 3. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in at least two (2) national newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,