



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila
Sixteenth Congress
First Regular Session



HOUSE BILL NO. 817

Introduced by Representatives **NICANOR M. BRIONES**
and **RICO B. GERON**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

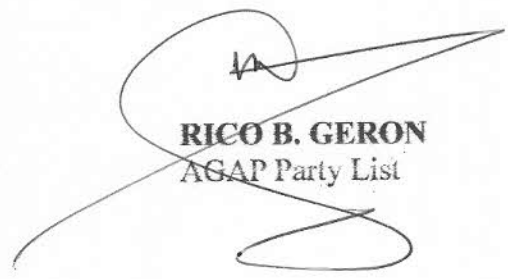
This bill seeks to provide indemnification for owners whose livestock are affected by highly communicable diseases amending for the purpose Presidential Decree No. 914 and appropriating funds therefore.

The raising and breeding of livestock is one of the major industries in the Philippines. The development of the livestock industry means the increased production of meat and other animal product to bolster the national economy. The presence of dangerous communicable diseases, such as foot and mouth disease (FMD), hog cholera, new- castle disease, Bovine Spongiform Encephalopathy (BSE), bird flu and other similar diseases, are harmful to livestock industry and to the health and well- being of our people. The spread of these diseases threaten the viability of the livestock industry and, consequently, the national food security.

Hence, to ensure the development of the livestock industry, it is necessary that a law be passed to indemnify the owners for the loss of livestock affected by dangerous communicable diseases.

In order that our local livestock industry is protected, enhanced and compensated, the approval of this bill is strongly recommended.


NICANOR M. BRIONES
AGAP Party List


RICO B. GERON
AGAP Party List



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HOUSE BILL NO.: 817

INTRODUCED BY REPRESENTATIVES **NICANOR M. BRIONES**
and **RICO B. GERON**

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 2008".

SECTION 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.

SECTION 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 bullets as FDM-free zones, where vaccination is not practiced, shall be allowed to be imported into the Philippines.

SECTION 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 that 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.

SECTION 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 and one (1) day, or both, at the discretion of the court: *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,*

further, 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.

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

SECTION 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.