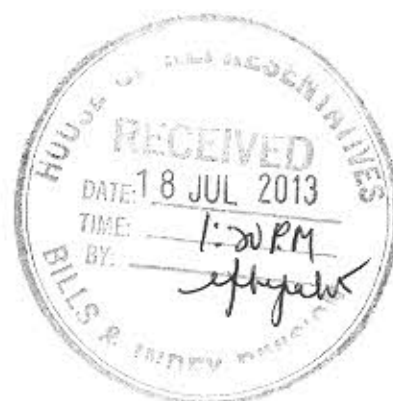


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

H. No. 1554



Introduced by Representative Estrellita "Ging" B. Suansing

EXPLANATORY NOTE

This bill seeks to prohibit the slaughter of carabaos of certain ages, amending for the purpose Republic Act No. 8485, which is also known as "The Animal Welfare Act of 1998". The objective of the bill is to allow or grant exemption to the slaughter of carabaos and buffalos at certain ages, seven (7) years old or over, if male and eleven (11) years old or over, if female. This is in light of the fact that when said animals are already of age, their marketability change as well. They are not as prolific in producing milk and in giving birth anymore. Also, the quality of their meat decreases, resulting in reduced profitability. Hence, the owners may see them as liabilities than assets.

Moreover, the bill likewise seeks to allow or grant exemption to the slaughter of carabaos and buffalos by integrating the circumstance "if they are raised or produced in commercial quantity, not as work animals." This circumstance was not included in the erstwhile R.A. No. 8485, thus, due to the change in modern conditions such as increase in population, the slaughter of concerned animals for meat processing and public consumption should be allowed.

Worthy of noting is that the bill pursuant to the tenor of R.A. No. 8485, the legislative intent of promoting animal welfare in the country, and the international movement for the prevention of cruelty to animals, mandates that slaughter can take place only upon issuance of the necessary permit from the authorities concerned.

The permit cannot be issued without a certificate from the provincial or city veterinarian concerned, or their authorized representative, to the effect that the carabao or buffalo to be slaughtered is of the required age, free from any disease or falls under any of the circumstances provided by R.A. No. 8485.

Ultimately, the objective of the bill is to incorporate an event that is brought about by society's changing conditions; and does not in any way hamper or restrict the movement for the protection and safety of animal welfare.

Thus, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought as it will work together and not contravene with the 'animal welfare programs' of the government.

To reiterate, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


Rep. ESTRELLITA "GING" B. SUANSING
1st District, Nueva Ecija

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

H. No. — **1554**

Introduced by Representative Estrellita "Ging" B. Suansing

AN ACT
PROHIBITING THE SLAUGHTER OF CARABAOS AT CERTAIN AGES,
AMENDING FOR THE PURPOSE REPUBLIC ACT NO. 8485, OTHERWISE
KNOWN AS "THE ANIMAL WELFARE ACT OF 1998"

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

SECTION 1. Section 6 of Republic Act No. 8485, otherwise known as "The
Animal Welfare Act of 1998", is hereby amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 6. It shall be unlawful for any person to torture any animal,
to neglect to provide adequate care, sustenance or shelter, or maltreat
any animal or to subject any dog or horse to dogfights or horsefights, kill
or cause or procure to be tortured or deprived of adequate care,
sustenance or shelter, or maltreat or use the same in research or
experiments not expressly authorized by the Committee on Animal
Welfare.

"THE SLAUGHTER OF CARABAOS AND BUFFALO IS
PROHIBITED EXCEPT UNDER THE FOLLOWING CONDITIONS:

"(A) ONLY CARABAOS AND BUFFALO THAT ARE SEVEN (7)
YEARS OLD OR OVER, IF MALE, AND ELEVEN (11) YEARS OLD OR
OVER, IF FEMALE, MAY BE SLAUGHTERED UPON ISSUANCE OF
THE NECESSARY SLAUGHTER PERMIT BY THE AUTHORITIES
CONCERNED; AND

"(B) NO SLAUGHTER PERMIT SHALL BE ISSUED WITHOUT A
CERTIFICATE BY THE PROVINCIAL OR CITY VETERINARIAN
CONCERNED, OR THEIR AUTHORIZED REPRESENTATIVE, TO
THE EFFECT THAT THE CARABAO OR BUFFALO TO BE
SLAUGHTERED IS OF THE REQUIRED AGE AND FREE FROM ANY
DISEASE.

"The killing of CARABAOS AND BUFFALO AS PROVIDED HEREIN OR any animal other than [cattle,] COWS, pigs, goats, sheep, poultry, rabbits, [carabaos,] horses, deer and crocodiles is likewise hereby declared unlawful except in the following instances:

"(1) WHEN THE CARABAOS OR BUFFALO ARE RAISED IN COMMERCIAL QUANTITY, NOT AS WORK ANIMALS, BUT FOR MEAT OR PROCESSING;

"[(1)](2) When it is done as part of the religious rituals of an established religion or sect or a ritual required by tribal or ethnic custom of indigenous cultural communities; however, leaders shall keep records in cooperation with the Committee on Animal Welfare;

"[2](3) When the [pet] animal is afflicted with an incurable communicable disease as determined and certified by a duly licensed veterinarian;

"[3](4) When the killing is deemed necessary to put an end to the misery suffered by the animal as determined and certified by a duly licensed veterinarian;

"[4](5) When it is done to prevent an imminent danger to the life or limb of a human being; [and]

"[(5) When done for the purpose of animal population control;]

"(6) When the animal is killed after it has been used in authorized research or experiments; and

"(7) Any other ground analogous to the foregoing as determined and certified by a licensed veterinarian.

"In all the above mentioned cases, including those of [cattle,] COWS, pigs, goats, sheep, poultry, rabbits, carabaos, BUFFALO, horses, deer and crocodiles, the killing of the animals shall be done through humane procedures at all times.

"For this purpose, humane procedures shall mean the use of the most scientific methods available as may be determined and approved by the Committee ON ANIMAL WELFARE.

"Only those procedures approved by the Committee shall be used in the killing of animals."

SEC. 2. All existing laws, orders, decrees, rules and regulations or parts thereof inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,