

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

SIXTEENTH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **2607**



Introduced by Representative Mark Llandro L. Mendoza

AN ACT
STRENGTHENING THE ANIMAL INDUSTRY
AND VETERINARY SERVICES IN THE PHILIPPINES

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The challenges in food animal production and health during the last decade had been enormous. The presence of new and emerging animal diseases, especially those that are transmissible to humans, demands of globalization, effects of climate change, dependence on agricultural imports, burgeoning population and pervasive rural poverty have all impeded the full development of the animal industry, thereby posing real threats to our nation's food security. The agricultural sector contributed 18% to the National Gross Domestic Product (NGDP) of which 26% to 28% or about P340 billion was contributed by the livestock and poultry sub-sector under the auspices of the Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI). The BAI, established by law in 1930 as a line bureau was able to carry out its mandate of increasing food animal production and maintaining the health of food animal. However, in 1987, its regional line functions were decentralized pursuant to Executive Order No. 292 (Administrative Code of 1987). When the Local Government Law was enacted and implemented in 1991, most of the veterinary field services were devolved to the local government units (LGUs). With regard to its domestic activities, BAI has been relegated to a staff bureau without control over the regional and local veterinary services and animal production as well as animal welfare. This inadequacy contributed to the inability of the BAI to immediately and effectively institute measures in the prevention, control and eradication of harmful/zoonotic animal diseases on a national scale and international scale such as the prevention of entry of exotic animal diseases, control and eradication of domestic animal and zoonotic diseases (e.g., Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza or Bird Flu, Mad Cow, Rabies, Leptospirosis, Ebola Reston Virus in pigs). Likewise, this has also affected the implementation of national policies and standards on animal production and welfare effectively. The Philippines officially recognizes the international health guidelines of the World Organization for Animal Health (OIE) and Sanitary-Phytosanitary (SPS) measures set by the World Trade Organization (WTO) in matters of trade facilitation. However, there are problem areas in their proper implementation. Issues relating to observance of acceptable level of drug residues in animal products and lack of enforcing authority on confiscation/destruction of contaminated or suspected to be infected animals and animal products, farm accreditation,

animal traceability and establishment of disease free areas are some of the health concerns facing the animal industry. With these evolving challenges since its inception more than 80 years ago, the BAI must keep abreast with global developments. Hence, we now need an expanded but LIMITED LINE AUTHORITY in the delivery of functional and efficient Veterinary Services in the country. It is therefore imperative that this proposed Act be enacted into law in order to further improve the animal industry and strengthen the veterinary services of the Philippines through an agency to be called the "National Livestock and Veterinary Services Authority (NLVSA) in lieu of the current BAI as provided for in this proposed Act.

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

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**AN ACT STRENGTHENING THE ANIMAL INDUSTRY AND
VETERINARY SERVICES IN THE PHILIPPINES**

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

Chapter I

INTRODUCTORY PROVISIONS

- 1 Section 1. **Title.** - This Act shall be known as the "Animal Industry and Veterinary Services Act of
2 2013".
- 3 Section 2. **Declaration of Policy.** - It shall be the policy of the State to promote and protect animal
4 health and welfare, recognize the importance of efficient delivery of sanitary measures,
5 establish a modern and responsive national veterinary authority, encourage the participation
6 of various veterinary service providers, and secure the development of the animal industry in
7 the attainment of greater safeguards and food security for the country's animal and human
8 populations, improved public health and environment, and enhanced global trade
9 competitiveness.
- 10 Section 3. **Coverage.** - This Act shall apply to all programs, activities and undertakings of persons,
11 corporations, associations, organizations, small-hold farmers, entities, or government
12 agencies that, directly or indirectly, deals on (1) animal health related matters such as, but
13 not limited to, (a) animal and zoonotic disease diagnosis, treatment, prevention, control and
14 eradication, (b) early detection systems and compulsory reporting of important animal
15 diseases and zoonoses, (c) inspection and monitoring of (i) animals, animal products and by-
16 products (ii) animal facilities, premises, equipment, means of transportation and other
17 inanimate things in contact with animals and/or animal products (iii) animal feeds, feed
18 ingredients, supplements and additives, (iv) veterinary drugs, veterinary biological and
19 immunological products, veterinary cosmetics and veterinary devices, (2) animal welfare,
20 (3) training and research on animal health and welfare, marketing and extension services,
21 and product development, (4) rational and judicious use of veterinary drugs, veterinary
22 biologicals and diagnostic reagents in animals; (5) management, genetic improvement and
23 operations of beef cattle, poultry and small ruminant farms of the government for
24 conservation of native domestic breeds.
- 25 Section 4. **Objectives.** The State shall endeavor to achieve the following objectives:
- 26 1. To protect human and environmental health from hazards caused by animal diseases and
27 zoonoses;
- 28 2. To establish a modern and responsive veterinary services;

3. To formulate, promote, enforce, implement rules, policies and programs for the promotion of animal health, animal welfare and environment-friendly animal production processes;
4. To institutionalize inter-agency, multi-sectoral and local government cooperation on animal health and veterinary service programs;
5. To ensure animal food production safety and food security in support of poverty alleviation;
6. To guarantee compliance and harmonization of sanitary and phytosanitary (SPS) measures and other veterinary protocols with international standards;
7. To promote an environment of global livestock trade competitiveness.
8. To establish nucleus and multiplier livestock breeder and production farms in support of the government's modernization programs in agriculture.

Section 5. **Definition of Terms.** - As used in this Act, the following terms and phrases shall mean as follows:

Accreditation – refers to the procedure by which government agency having jurisdiction formally recognizes the competence of an inspection and/or certification body to provide inspection and certification services.

Agribusiness – refers to the various businesses involved in food production, including farming, breed and feed supply, agrichemicals, farm and processing machinery, wholesale and distribution, processing, marketing and retail sales. It also means making a “simple farmer” or “small backyard operator” into an “entrepreneur,” by legalizing their business venture with distinct identity and by developing their own competitive edge in the industry group where they belong.

Animal - refers to vertebrate and invertebrate species whether domestic or wild (exotic or indigenous) animals which maybe food producing, companion, aquatic, laboratory including birds, worms, bees and butterflies. The term excludes human and non-mammalian aquatic species.

Animal Effects - means litter or manure, hay, fodder or the like, used as blankets, chains, harnesses, ropes, buckets, boxes or crates and the like used by the animal. HB 3363

Animal facility – refers to permanent or temporary structures or premises generally used for purposes of caring, breeding, rearing, holding, gaming training, trading, transporting, treating, testing and exhibiting animals, such as but not limited to farms, zoos, aviaries, apiaries, kennels, racetracks, cockpits, pet shops, pounds, animal rescue centers, airport and seaport quarantine stations, animal holding facilities including those found in ports, railways and bus stations, stables, livestock auction markets, slaughterhouses, veterinary clinics, and veterinary hospitals.

Animal Feeds - refers to a mixture or combination of feed ingredients, supplements and additives, in any form, by specific formula to be fed directly as a sole ration to animals which is capable of furnishing the nutritional needs or requirements of the animal in order to maintain life, promote growth, production and reproduction without any additional substance except water. HB 3363

Animal Health - refers to the over-all physical condition and well-being of animal(s).

Animal Health Technician – a properly trained person who is authorized to carry out designated tasks related to veterinary medicine under the immediate supervision of a veterinarian.

Animal Identification - refers to the combination of the identification and registration of an animal individually, with a unique identifier, or collectively by its epidemiological unit or group, with a unique group identifier.

Animal Identification System - refers to the inclusion and linking of component such as identification of establishments, owners, person or persons responsible for the animal(s), animal movements and other records with an animal identification.

Animal Industry – refers to any activity relating to the production, breeding, caring, rearing, holding, trading, transporting and use of all animals; animal processing, marketing and feed milling;

Animal Production Food Safety and Security - refers to measures taken in farms and production areas to safeguard the health of the consuming public and ensure that the food derived therefrom is safe and of sufficient quantity or supply. This includes measures taken to regulate and control the

- introduction of non-food animals to the food chain.
- Animal Products and By-Products** - refer to any meat, fat, milk whey, cream, butter, cheese, egg or other food or foodstuffs derived from an animal; or any part of the viscera of an animal, hide, skin, hair, wool, feathers, shell, horn or hoof; or any article or substance derived from dung, urine, feces, bone, or blood of an animal; or any secretion of an animal or any product or biological preparation made or derived from any animal tissue or animal secretion; or any article or substance derived from an animal such as semen, whether or not in combination with any article or substance; or any article or substance or thing that is declared by order to be an animal product for the purposes of this Act.
- Animal Registry** - refers to the list of information on animals (such identification, animal health, movement, certification, epidemiology, establishments) collected, recorded, securely stored and made appropriately accessible and able to be utilized by the National Livestock and Veterinary Services Authority (NLVSA), and its stakeholders as described hereunder in Section 6, Chapter II.
- Border Post** - refers to any airport, or seaport, railway station or road check-point open to domestic and international trade of commodities, where veterinary inspections are performed.
- Buffer Zone** - refers to an area established to protect the health status of animals in a disease free country or disease free zones, from those in a country or zone of a different animal health status, using measures based on the epidemiology of the disease under consideration to prevent spread of the causative pathogenic agent into a free country or free zone. These measures may include, but are not limited to, vaccination, movement control and an intensified degree of disease surveillance.
- Certification**- refers to the procedure by which official certification bodies or officially recognized certification bodies provide written or equivalent assurance that animal control systems conform to requirements.
- Chief Veterinary Officer** - refers to a veterinarian who has the responsibility and competence of ensuring and supervising the implementation of animal health and welfare measures, international veterinary certification and other standards and guidelines in the Terrestrial Animal Health Code of the World Organization for Animal Health or *Organization International des Epizooties* (OIE) in the entire country.
- Communicable Animal Diseases** - refer to diseases which are transmissible from one animal to another.
HB 3363
- Compartment** - refers to one or more establishments under a common biosecurity management system containing an animal subpopulation with a distinct health status with respect to a specific disease or diseases for which required surveillance, control, biosecurity measures have been applied for the purpose of international trade.
- Competent Authority** - refers to the NLVSA which is the official authority charged by the government in the control of animal health, welfare, animal production food safety and veterinary services.
- Confiscation** - refers to taking into custody of animals, animal parts and/or products, and/or of animal effects by the competent authority for its proper disposal for having been the subject of violation of rules and regulations or posing risk to general human and animal welfare.
- Control Area or zone** - refers to an area around the infected area where restrictions will reduce and/or limit the chance of further spreading the disease.
- Diseases** - refer to the impairment of normal state of living animals showing sub-clinical, clinical/pathological manifestation with infectious and non-infectious condition.
- Domestic movement**- refers to the transfer/transport of animals, animal product, by-products and effects within the country. HB 3363
- Down time** - refers to the waiting period and biosecurity measures prescribed by the owner or management approved by NLVSA for people to observe before entering the premises of any animal farm/establishment to prevent the entry of animal diseases.
- Early detection system** - refers to a system for the timely detection and identification of animal and zoonotic diseases which includes the following characteristics, namely; (a) representative coverage of target animal populations by veterinary field services; (b) ability to undertake

- effective disease investigation and reporting; (c) access to laboratories capable of diagnosing and differentiating relevant diseases; and (d) training program for veterinarians and animal health technicians for detecting and reporting unusual disease occurrence.
- Emerging Disease** - refers to a new infection resulting from the evolution or change of an existing pathogenic agent, a known infection spreading to a new geographic area or population, or a previously unrecognizable pathogenic agent or disease diagnosed for the first time and which has a significant impact on animal or public health.
- Epidemiology** - refers to the science concerned with the study of factors determining and influencing the frequency and distribution of disease, injury and other health-related events and their causes in a defined population.
- Equivalence of Sanitary Measures** - refers to the state wherein the sanitary measure(s) proposed by the exporting country as an alternative to those of the importing country achieve(s) the same level of protection
- Eradication** - refers to the elimination of a pathogenic agent or disease from the country or zone/area/region.
- Establishment** - refers to entities engaged in the manufacture, production, preparation, handling, importation, exportation, sale, storage, offer for sale, distribution, transfer, use, testing, promotion, advertising or sponsorship of animals, animal products and by-products, veterinary drugs and veterinary biological products, animal feeds and feed ingredients, veterinary cosmetics, and veterinary devices.
- Exportation**- refers to the transportation of commodities such as live animals, animal products, animal by-products, animal effects, animal feeds, veterinary drugs/products and veterinary biological products from the Philippines to another country. HB 3363
- Exotic/Foreign Animal Diseases**- refer to any disease known to exist in foreign countries which is likely to be introduced in the country through importation of animals, animal products, animal by-products or animal effects, animal feeds, veterinary drugs/products and veterinary biological products.
- Feed Ingredients** - refer to all articles, in any form, that are added or mixed into the composition or which are used as raw materials in the formulation of a feed or ration, base feed, base mix, concentrate, feed supplement, feed additive, specialty feed and/or special feed preparation purporting to supply additional nutrients, such as but not limited to, proteins, carbohydrates, fats, minerals, vitamins, growth promoting factors and/or correcting nutritional disorders.
- Free Zone** - refers to an area which the absence of the disease under consideration has been complied in accordance with the requirements specified in the Terrestrial Code of the OIE for free status being met. Within the zone and at its borders, appropriate official veterinary control is effectively applied for animals and animal products, and their transportation.
- Governance** - refers to the process by which the Philippines government (national, regional and local), private sector, industry associations and other stakeholders collectively solve the problems, needs and concerns of the animal industry.
- Hazard** - refers to a biological, chemical or physical agent in, or a condition of an animal or animal product with the potential to cause an adverse health effect.
- Importation**- refers to the bringing into the country commodities such as live animals, animal products, animal by-products, animal effects, animal feeds, veterinary drugs and veterinary biological products from foreign countries. HB 3363
- Indemnification** - refers to the payment for any loss of animals or damage to its by-products in accordance with the guidelines established by the Veterinary Authority.
- Infected Zone** - refers to an area in which the disease under consideration is present.
- International Veterinary Certificate** - Otherwise called as Veterinary Health Certificate refers to the document issued by the Veterinary Quarantine Service Officers specifying among others therein that the animals, animal products and by-products or animal effects intended for international or domestic transport are free from any communicable animal diseases or are not carriers thereof.

- 1 **Livestock** - refers to food animals including poultry.
- 2 **Livestock Agribusiness Marketing** - refers to the critical roles marketing plays in the successful
 3 operation of an agribusiness firm by focusing on the six major parts of agribusiness marketing
 4 system such as: 1) the agricultural input industries; 2) the impact of technology-induced
 5 changes on production practices and the need for marketing awareness on the part of farmers
 6 as a way to achieve greater profitability; 3) the commodity processing and food manufacturing
 7 industries; 4) the food wholesaling and retailing industries; 5) the food service industry; and 6)
 8 cooperative agribusiness.
- 9 **Livestock Marketing System** - refers to livestock economics system that relies upon the markets and
 10 market forces to allocate resources and goods, to determine prices and quantities of each
 11 product that will be produced.
- 12
- 13 **Marketing** - refers to the process of planning the conception, pricing, promotion and distribution of
 14 goods and services to create exchanges that satisfy individual and organizational objectives.
- 15
- 16 **Market Infrastructure** - refers to facilities including, but not limited to livestock "oksyon" market,
 17 wet/public market buildings, weighing scale center, holding pens, warehouses, market
 18 information centers, slaughterhouses, connecting roads, transport and communication and cold
 19 storage used by the livestock farmers in marketing their produce.
- 20 **Marketing Information System** - refers to an information system concerned with the collection, storage,
 21 and analysis of information and data for marketing decision making purposes. Information for
 22 use in marketing information systems is gathered from customers, competitors and their
 23 products, and from the market itself.
- 24 **Marketing Intelligence** - refers to data/information obtained both publicly & privately by market players
 25 that reflect a myriad of factors regarding prices, stocks, trends, government policies affecting
 26 supply or demand, production and consumption of products, by-products and allied products in
 27 an industry, e.g. animal industry, to achieve a marketing or business-related competitiveness.
- 28 **Market Research** - refers to the identification of a specific market and measurement of its size and other
 29 characteristics collected from direct observation of the consumers (such as in retail stores),
 30 mail surveys, telephone or face-to-face interviews, and from published sources (such as
 31 demographic data).
- 32 **Notifiable Disease** - refers to disease listed by the Veterinary Authority, and that, as soon as detected or
 33 suspected, must be brought to the attention of the Veterinary Authority, in accordance with
 34 national regulations.
- 35 **Notification** - refers to the procedure by which the Local Veterinary Authority informs the National
 36 Veterinary Authority, of the occurrence of an outbreak of disease or infection.
- 37 **OIE (Office Internationale des Epizooties)** or the World Organization for Animal Health - is the
 38 intergovernmental organization responsible for improving animal health worldwide. It is
 39 recognized as a reference organization by the World Trade Organization (WTO).
- 40 **Poultry** - includes chickens, turkeys, guinea fowl, gamefowls, ducks, geese, quails, pigeons, pheasants,
 41 partridges, and ratites reared or kept in captivity for breeding, production of meat or eggs for
 42 consumption or for re-stocking supplies of game.
- 43 **Production processes** - refer to the transformational steps in the conversion of raw materials to finished
 44 products.
- 45 **Professional Regulation Commission - Board of Veterinary Medicine (PRC-BVM)** - refers to an
 46 autonomous authority regulating veterinarians and animal health technicians.
- 47 **Quarantine** - refers to the act of isolating animals from other animals with no direct or indirect contact
 48 with other animals, to prevent the transmission of specified pathogen(s) while the animals are
 49 undergoing observation, and, if appropriate, testing and treatment, for a specified length of
 50 time and/or to determine their freedom from disease.
- 51 **Quarantine Station** - refers to a facility under the control of the veterinary service authority where
 52 animals are maintained in isolation with no direct contact or indirect contact with other

- 1 animals, to ensure that there is no transmission of specified pathogen/s outside the
2 establishment while the animals are undergoing observation for a specified length of time and,
3 if appropriate, testing and treatment. HB 3363
- 4 **Risk** - refers to the likelihood of the occurrence and the likely magnitude of consequences of an adverse
5 event to animal or human health in the importing country during a specified time period, as a
6 result of hazardous elements.
- 7 **Risk Analysis** - refers to the process composed of hazard identification, risk assessment, risk
8 management, and risk communication.
- 9 **Risk Assessment** - refers to the evaluation of the likelihood and the biological and economic
10 consequences of entry, establishment, or spread of a pathogenic agent within the territory of an
11 importing country.
- 12 **Risk Communication** - refers to the interactive exchange of information on risk among risk assessors,
13 risk managers and other interested parties.
- 14 **Risk Management** - refers to the process of identifying, selecting and implementing measures that can be
15 applied to reduce the level of risk.
- 16 **Sanitary and Phytosanitary Measures** - defined as measures applied (a) to protect human or animal life
17 from risks arising from additives, contaminants, toxins or disease-causing organisms in their
18 food; (b) to protect human life from plant-or animal-carried diseases; (c) to protect animal or
19 plant life from pests, diseases, or disease-causing organisms; and (d) to prevent or limit other
20 damage to a country from the entry, establishment or spread of pests. This also includes SPS
21 measures taken to protect the health of fish and wild fauna, as well as of forests and wild flora.
22 HB 3363
- 23 **Shipping Permit** - refers to the document issued by the NLVSA authorizing the person indicated therein
24 to ship or transport the stated items to their indicated destination(s).
- 25 **Third party certification or independent certification** is defined as when a firm requires that its suppliers
26 meet a certain standard and requests an independent organization that is not involved in the
27 business relationship to control the compliance of the suppliers.
- 28 **Traceability** - refers to the ability to follow or monitor the history/record of an animal or group of
29 animals during all stages of its life.
- 30 **Transshipment**- shipment of goods or containers to an intermediate destination and then from there to yet
31 another destination.
- 32 **Vaccination** - refers to the successful immunization of susceptible animals through the administration of
33 appropriate immunizing agents comprising of antigens or bacterins or any agent appropriate to
34 the disease to be controlled.
- 35 **Veterinarian** - refers to a person who has been registered and issued a valid certificate of registration and
36 professional identification card by Professional Regulatory Commission Board of Veterinary
37 Medicine of the Philippines.
- 38 **Veterinary Authority** - refers to the government authority, comprising of duly licensed veterinarians,
39 having the responsibility and competence of ensuring or supervising the implementation of
40 animal health and welfare measures, international veterinary certification and other standards
41 and guidelines in the Terrestrial Code of the OIE (World Organization for Animal Health).
- 42 **Veterinary Biological Products** - refer to all microorganisms (viruses, bacteria, fungi, protozoa, etc.),
43 components or products of microorganisms, antigens, antisera, bacterins, immunoglobulins and
44 analogous products of natural or of synthetic origin, including genetically modified organisms,
45 diagnostic kits and reagents, serums, toxins and antitoxins intended for use in the diagnosis,
46 prevention and treatment of animal diseases and for research purposes.
- 47 **Veterinary Cosmetics** - refer to any substance or preparation intended to be placed in contact with the
48 various external parts of the animal body or with the teeth, mucous membranes of the oral
49 cavity, with a view exclusively or mainly to cleaning them, perfuming them, changing their
50 appearance and/or correcting the body odor, and/or protecting the body or keeping the same in
51 good condition.
- 52 **Veterinary Devices** - refer to any instruments, apparatuses, implements, machines, appliances or

contrivances, including their components, parts and accessories intended for use in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment and prevention of animal diseases or to affect the structure or any function of the body or animals.

Veterinary Drugs - refer to articles for use in the diagnosis, cure, mitigation, treatment or prevention of diseases of animals.

Veterinary Products - as use in this Act shall collectively refer to veterinary biologicals, veterinary drugs, veterinary devices, and veterinary cosmetics as defined herein and to other substances applied to animal facilities such as but not limited to disinfectants, insecticides, and substances that modify or extend physiological functions, behaviors or availability such as but not limited to hormones, growth promotants, stimulants, enhancers, probiotics and acidifiers.

Veterinary Officer - refers to a duly-licensed veterinarian employed or deputized by the Director General of the NLVSA specifically tasked to investigate, diagnose and control animal diseases, including the performance of such duties and functions provided in this Act and other laws.

Veterinary Services - refer to the activities in the implementation of animal health, welfare, feed control and animal production food safety by government and non-government organizations.

Zone/Region - refers to a clearly defined part of the country containing an animal subpopulation with a distinct health status with respect to a specific disease for which required surveillance, control and biosecurity measures have been applied for the purpose of international trade.

Zoonosis - refers to any disease or infection which is naturally transmissible from animals to human vice versa.

Chapter II

STRUCTURE, POWERS AND FUNCTIONS

Section 6. **The National Livestock and Veterinary Services Authority (NLVSA).** - The Bureau of Animal Industry (BAI) shall be renamed as the "National Livestock and Veterinary Services Authority (NLVSA)", an attached line agency up to the regional level under the Department of Agriculture, primarily responsible for the regulation of the health, welfare and productivity of the national animal population.

The NLVSA shall be headed by a Director General, with the rank of undersecretary, who must possess a minimum experience of ten (10) years in practice as a duly licensed veterinarian. He shall be assisted by a Deputy Director General for Regulatory Services and a Deputy Director General for Research, Development and Extension Services, who, likewise, must both possess a minimum experience of ten (10) years practice as a duly licensed veterinarian.

The Director General, and Deputy Directors General shall be appointed by the President of the Philippines, while, the Center Directors, Regional Directors and Director for Administrative Support Services, shall be appointed by the Secretary of Agriculture. All personnel below the Director and Regional Director levels shall be appointed by the Director General.

Section 7. **Powers and Functions** - The NLVSA shall have the following principal powers through the Director General or his duly designated representative:

1. **Regulatory Authority.** - The NLVSA shall have authority to regulate animal health, animal welfare, animal production food safety and matters connected or pertaining to, but not limited to general sanitary measures, risk analysis, animal quarantine and inspection, diagnosis of diseases, animal feeds and feed ingredients, veterinary drugs and veterinary biological products, and other pharmaceuticals and products used on animals and the environment, animal facilities, equipments, veterinary devices and veterinary cosmetics, veterinary research, animal production and international certification procedures.
2. **Technical Assistance and Supervision.** - The NLVSA shall provide technical training for capacity building and strengthening of livestock and veterinary services related functions of all national government agencies and Local Government Units (LGUs). It shall exercise

1 technical supervision over veterinary offices and veterinary related functions of all national
2 government agencies and LGUs. This includes oversight authority to require mandatory
3 notification and coordination, submission of reports and other pertinent data regarding
4 animal disease situations, within the respective areas or jurisdictions of other government
5 agencies and local government units.

- 6 3. **Assumption of Control.** – The NLVSA is authorized, subject to the approval of the Secretary
7 of Agriculture and as recommended by the National Advisory Committee on Animal
8 Diseases and Emergency (NAC-ADE), as hereunder described in Sections 14 & 15, Chapter
9 IV, to assume full control and direction in the management of local and regional outbreaks of
10 dangerous communicable and zoonotic animal diseases, where the animal and/or human
11 health status of the country is in actual or imminent danger.

12 The NLVSA shall make the proper coordination with the concerned LGU and regional
13 officials of other agencies on its activities.

- 14 4. **Visitorial Power** – The NLVSA, through its duly authorized personnel, upon presenting
15 appropriate credentials or authority to the owner, manager, or any person-in-charge and after
16 following reasonable down time requirements duly approved by the NLVSA, shall have the
17 power to enter and inspect the premises of livestock and poultry farms and other animal
18 establishments, conduct collection of laboratory specimens and samples with proper
19 description and receipt of those taken, and when required by circumstances and as authorized
20 by the Director General, impose preventive and control measures therein, in coordination
21 with concerned owners and caretakers.

- 22 5. **Declaration of Quarantine** - The Director General through a written order of quarantine
23 shall cause the immediate seizure, holding or detention for thirty (30) days or for such longer
24 period, if necessary, for observation and/or mandatory testing of animals, animal parts,
25 products, and by-products, animal feeds, feed ingredients, feed supplements and feed
26 additives, veterinary biologicals, veterinary drugs/products and veterinary devices, and such
27 other materials or substances which are suspected or deemed to be affected with or carriers
28 of dangerous animal diseases or found to be undocumented, or of unknown source and
29 conditions, and posing an imminent danger, threat and injury to the overall animal health
30 situation in the country.

- 31 6. **Confiscation and Disposal** – The NLVSA, through appropriate destruction order, shall have
32 the authority to immediately confiscate and dispose of animals, animal parts, products, and
33 by-products, animal feeds, feed ingredients, feed supplements/additives, veterinary
34 biological products, veterinary drugs, products and veterinary devices, and such other
35 materials or substances that are declared prohibited or banned; or showing signs and
36 symptoms of dangerous animal diseases; or, in case of animal feeds, veterinary drugs,
37 biological and other materials or substances, tested positive for adulteration, or
38 contamination of toxic chemicals or substances.

39 Articles or items that are undocumented, or of unknown source and conditions, not covered
40 in the preceding paragraph which the possessor, owner, consignee or importer, as the case
41 maybe, failed to substantiate through submission of requisite documents, or establish the
42 origin thereof and its compliance with pertinent regulations within seventy-two (72) hours
43 from quarantine shall, likewise, be subject to confiscation and appropriate disposal.

- 44 7. **Call for Assistance** - The Director General may call upon any government agency for any
45 form of assistance consistent with its powers, duties, and responsibilities for the purpose of
46 ensuring the effective and efficient implementation of this Act and the rules and regulations
47 promulgated hereunder.

- 48 8. **Subsidiary Legislation** - The Secretary of Agriculture, upon the recommendation of the
49 NLVSA shall issue rules and regulations to implement and enforce the provisions of this
50 Act.

- 51 9. **Delegation** – The NLVSA shall have the authority to deputize local government and private
52 veterinarians to perform disease control, measures to obviate any animal welfare concerns

and animal health matters for proper implementation of national disease control policies and programs at all levels. The Director General (DG) shall deputize Animal Welfare Officers from Non Government Organizations (NGOs), citizens groups, community organizations and other volunteers who have undergone the necessary training and accreditation for this purpose. As such, the Animal Welfare Officers shall have the full authority to seize and confiscate affected animals in violation of the provisions of the Act, subject to existing rules and regulation on arrest and detention.

10. **Emergency Response** – The NLVSA shall establish an emergency preparedness plan to ensure the safety and protection of the animal population in the event of natural and man-made disasters.

Section 8. **Organizational Structure** – The technical, administrative, finance and support services of the NLVSA shall be strengthened as may be appropriate and necessary to carry out effectively the provisions of this Act. Various Centers shall be established under the NLVSA and each Center shall be headed by a Director, who must possess a minimum practice of five (5) years as a veterinarian, with supervisory experience in any related field. Each center shall include divisions which shall be headed by a division chief with minimum management experience of three (3) years.

1. **Center for Animal Health and Welfare (CAHW)** - The Center shall be responsible for veterinary epidemiology, animal disease surveillance systems, animal disease prevention, control and eradication programs, risk analysis, herd health management, animal welfare and animal health information.

The center shall have the following divisions: (a) Veterinary Epidemiology and Economics (b) Animal Disease Control and Veterinary Public Health, (c) Animal Welfare and (d) Animal Health Information and Communication.

2. **Center for Veterinary Quarantine Services (CVQS)** – The Center shall be primarily responsible in issuing import and export certifications, conducting pre- and post-border inspections and monitoring, accreditation, quarantine, and if warranted by biosecurity procedures, instituting immediate seizure and/or confiscation and destruction or disposal of animals, animal parts, products, and by-products, animal feeds, feed ingredients, feed supplements and feed additives, veterinary biological products, veterinary drugs/products and veterinary devices, and such other materials or substances posing threat or harm to animal health. The Center shall also be responsible for the maintenance of quarantine stations and enforcement of animal quarantine and welfare rules and regulations in the various inland and offshore shipping routes of the country.

The Center shall have the following divisions: (a) Sanitary and PhytoSanitary Trade Facilitation (b) Veterinary Quarantine Inspection and Monitoring, and (c) Biosecurity.

3. **Center for Animal Disease Diagnosis (CADD)** – The Center shall primarily conduct laboratory diagnosis of animal diseases and act as a repository of data on disease diagnosis. It shall be responsible for the establishment and management of regional veterinary diagnostic and other specialized laboratories, including the certification/accreditation of private and government animal disease diagnostic laboratories and the monitoring of same. CADD shall also be the National Reference Center for Animal Disease Diagnosis.(HB2575)

The Center shall have the following divisions: (a) Pathobiology, (b) Bacteriology & Mycobiology, (c) Virology, (d) Laboratory Standards and Compliance and (e) National Animal Disease Diagnostic Laboratory Information Management and Coordination.

4. **Center for Animal Feeds, Veterinary Products and Establishments Regulation (CAFVPER)** – The Center shall regulate the manufacture, production, importation, exportation, distribution, handling, sale, offer for sale, transfer, promotion, advertisement, the use and testing of pre-mixes, animal feeds, feed ingredients, feed supplements and feed additives, veterinary drugs and veterinary biological products, veterinary cosmetics and veterinary devices and all other types of veterinary products and establishments. It shall likewise conduct assays on the quality, safety, potency and efficacy of these products and

1 veterinary drug residues in animal products except meat.

2 The Center shall include the following divisions: (a) Registration, Licensing, &
3 Accreditation, (b) Inspection and Compliance and (c) Laboratory Services.

- 4 5. **Animal Genetic Resource Management and Improvement Center – (AGRMIC)** This
5 Center shall be responsible for formulating policies and programs for sustainable animal
6 genetic resources of domestic animals. It shall prepare in consultation with various
7 stakeholders the national strategy and action plan for the use, development and conservation
8 of animal genetic resources in particular the native food animals.

9 The Center shall have the following divisions: (a) Breed Registry and Central Data
10 Management (b) Gene Bank (c) Native Pigs (d) Native Poultry (e) Native Cattle, Goat and
11 Sheep (f) Native Horses.

- 12 6. **Center for Animal Research and Product Development (CARPD)** – This Center shall
13 address the national agenda for all researches on animal health, animal welfare and animal
14 production food safety and security in coordination, collaboration and consultation with
15 international and local agencies and stakeholders.

16 It shall also be responsible for the generation of technology, technology adaptation and
17 demonstration necessary for maximum utilization of available resources in accordance with
18 the requirements of the national animal research, production and development agenda and
19 shall also serve as repository of all animal research and scientific information.

20 This Center shall have the following divisions: (a) Animal Production Research, (b)
21 Veterinary Product Research and Standards Development and (c) Animal Product
22 Development.

- 23 7. **Center for Livestock Trade Promotion and Development (CLTPD)** – This Center shall
24 be primarily responsible for the promotion of the National Agenda for the development and
25 implementation of sustainable livestock business development, animal industry strategic
26 management, animal supply chain management, animal knowledge and information
27 network, participatory governance, animal market and post- production development and
28 animal market infrastructure and animal statistics and marketing intelligence, animal
29 marketing system programs and activities.

30 The center shall have following divisions: (a) Livestock Business and Industry Strategic
31 Development (b) Market and Post-production Development (c) Socio-Economic and
32 Marketing Research.

- 33 Section 9. **Administrative Support Services** - The NLVSA shall be assisted by an Administrative
34 Support Services which shall be headed by Director and Regional Chiefs of Division, who
35 must possess a minimum management experience of five (5) years and three (3) years in any
36 related field, respectively. It shall have the following divisions or units, as maybe
37 applicable, to wit: (a) Assets and Finance, (b) Human Resource Development, (c) Property
38 and Logistics Management (d) Legal Support Services, (e) Monitoring & Evaluation, (f)
39 Planning & International Desk, and (g) Information and Communication Technology
40 Management.

- 41 Section 10. **Regional Livestock and Veterinary Services Offices (RLVSOs)** – Regional Livestock and
42 Veterinary Services Offices of the NLVSA shall be created at the regional level to be headed
43 by the Regional Director, who must possess a minimum experience of at least ten (10) years
44 as a veterinarian. Each office shall be supported by such number of divisions as may be
45 necessary in the performance of regional operations.

46 All existing DA regional staff performing veterinary services and functions are hereby
47 transferred to the RLVSO.

48 Chapter III

**CHIEF VETERINARY OFFICER, VETERINARY OFFICERS AND
ANIMAL HEALTH TECHNICIANS**

Section 11. **Chief Veterinary Officer.** – The Director General of the NLVSA shall be the Chief Veterinary Officer (CVO) of the country. He shall be primarily responsible in the formulation and implementation of national policies, strategies, priorities and action plans on animal health, animal welfare and animal production food safety. He shall also represent the country in official international dialogue on animal health matters.

The CVO shall coordinate and, as much as possible, establish linkages with allied government agencies, the private sector and academe in the implementation of plans and programs in animal disease prevention, control and eradication to ensure prompt mobilization of all essential personnel and resources in the event of animal disease emergencies.

The CVO shall also endeavor to address current, recurring, new and prospective national issues and concerns on animal health, animal welfare, safe animal feeds and animal food production safety and security, with regional and global impact through the help of other allied government agencies and stakeholders.

Section 12. **Veterinary Officers (VOs) and Animal Health Technicians (AHTs)**– The Director General of the NLVSA shall appoint or deputize veterinarians and other personnel under its employ as VO and AHT, respectively, under this Act. He shall prescribe the duties and responsibilities of the National and Regional VO.

When the interest of the service so requires, the VO shall be entitled to incentives, overtime fees and reimbursement of expenses for services rendered outside of office hours which shall be chargeable to the parties served, at the rates to be prescribed by the Secretary of Agriculture upon the recommendation of the Director General. HB 3363

Section 13. **Magna Carta for Public Health Workers**– VOs, AHTs, and other veterinarians employed or deputized by the NLVSA, including their administrative and support personnel directly exposed to veterinary public health related activities shall be entitled to additional compensations, and other benefits provided under Republic Act No. 7305, also known as the Magna Carta for Public Health workers.

Chapter IV

ADVISORY COMMITTEES

Section 14. **National and Regional Advisory Committees for Animal Diseases and Emergency.** – The existing National and Regional Advisory Committees on Animal Disease Control and Emergency (NAC-ADCE/RAC-ADCE), which were created in the advent of emerging diseases are hereby renamed and institutionalized in this Act as the National and Regional Advisory Committees on Animal Diseases and Emergency (NAC-ADE/RAC-ADE) under the Office of the Secretary of Agriculture.

The Chairperson of the NAC-ADE shall be a duly licensed veterinarian of good standing, competence and probity in the veterinary profession, and a practicing veterinarian for at least ten (10) years with sufficient knowledge of the livestock industry and its animal health related services. He shall be designated as such by the Secretary of Agriculture from the recommendation of the regular members from the private sector.

The manner in the filling up of the members of the committee and sub-committees shall be prescribed and approved by the Secretary of Agriculture upon recommendation of the Director General. The composition of the committee shall be updated from time to time and as may be needed by circumstances.

Section 15. **Duties and Functions.** – The NAC-ADE and RAC-ADE shall submit their recommendations directly to the Secretary of Agriculture and perform the following duties and functions:

1. Recommend policies and measures on the following:
 - a. Risk analyses and import protocols, prevention, control, eradication and monitoring of economically harmful animal diseases including zoonotic diseases;
 - b. Procedures to be followed in times of emergencies, e.g., nationwide epidemic of food animal and zoonotic diseases and during disasters, either man-made or natural;
 - c. Verification of reports on emerging zoonotic animal diseases;
 - d. Support the CVO in sourcing funds from national and international funding agencies.
 2. The NAC-ADE shall coordinate the activities of the various Regional Advisory Committee on Animal Diseases and Emergency (RAC-ADEs) which is the regional counterpart and have similar function advising the Secretary of Agriculture and the respective Regional Directors (RDs);
 3. Create sub-committees to address special issues and concerns of the NLVSA and other agencies.
 4. Assist in the review of policies, programs, and projects for the development of the National Veterinary Services.
 5. Assist in the evaluation of the implementation, efficiency and effectiveness of the operations, programs and projects of the NLVSA, as well as the enforcement of the provisions of this Act.
- Section 16. ***National Advisory Committee for the Welfare of Animals (NACWA)*** – The CAW created under RA 8485 shall be renamed the NACWA which is a multi-agency/multi sectoral committee. It shall be chaired by a representative from any of the private sector subject to the approval of the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture. The Committee shall be responsible for the formulation of rules and regulations for the strict implementation of the provisions of this Act and RA 8485.
- The Committee shall be composed of representatives from the following agencies/sectors:
- a. Department of Agriculture
 - b. Department of Environment and Natural Resources
 - c. Department of Interior and Local Government
 - d. Department of Education
 - e. Provincial, City and Municipal Veterinarians' League of the Philippines
 - f. Philippines Veterinary Medical Association
 - g. Animal Welfare Organizations
 - h. Academe
- Section 17. ***Animal Feeds Advisory Committee (AFAC)*** – The Animal Feed Control Advisory Committee (AFCAC) created under Senate Bill No. 627 amending Republic Act No. 1556 adopted into law by Presidential Decree No. 7 in 1972, is hereby renamed Animal Feed Advisory Committee with eleven (11) members, the composition of which shall be modified to add three more members, namely: one legal representative from the NLVSA, one representative from the Legal Division of DA and one representative from the Philippine College of Veterinary Feed Practitioners. The AFAC shall continue to exercise its functions in matters related to the animal feed industry, except as provided in Section 66 of SB No. 627 hereof.
- Section 18. ***Mandatory Review and Evaluation*** - The recommendations of the NAC-ADE, CAW, and AFSAC shall be subject to mandatory review and evaluation by the Director General, before the same are submitted for final approval by the Secretary of Agriculture.
- Section 19. ***Other Advisory Committees*** – Other Advisory Committees may be created to assist the NLVSA in the implementation of its various programs and projects.

Chapter V

LOCAL GOVERNMENT UNITS AND LOCAL VETERINARY OFFICERS

- Section 20. ***LGU Assistance and Cooperation*** - Local Government Units (LGUs) shall assist and closely cooperate with the NLVSA in the implementation of the provisions of this Act. They shall extend any available manpower, security, material and financial resources to any national animal disease prevention and control measures, animal welfare and other national programs being undertaken by the NLVSA within their respective jurisdictions.
- Section 21. ***Creation of Municipal Veterinary Positions*** - The position of municipal veterinarian shall be mandatory in all first class municipalities and optional in other municipalities.
- Section 22. ***Responsibilities of Provincial, City and Municipal Veterinarians*** - In addition to the duties of a veterinary officer as provided in Section 489 of Republic Act No. 7160, also known as the "Local Government Code of 1991", it shall be the duty of veterinary officers as the case maybe, to:
1. Ensure the implementation of policies, rules and regulations issued by NLVSA and other coordinating agencies in accordance with the provisions of this Act and its related laws, rules and regulations towards the enforcement of animal disease prevention, control measures and animal welfare regulations.
 2. Extend assistance, as may be necessary, to the NLVSA in the implementation or enforcement of animal disease prevention and control measures, and animal welfare within their area of responsibility.
 3. Comply with all reportorial and documentary requirements needed by the NLVSA in the implementation of this Act.
- Section 23. ***Issuance of Mayor's Permit*** - No LGU shall issue any Mayor's Permit to operate any farm, clinic, animal facility, kennel or any other veterinary establishment unless the owner/operator has secured clearance from the provincial, city or municipal veterinarian attesting to the fact that the establishment has complied with all the requirements prescribed under NLVSA rules and regulations.

Chapter VI

ROLE OF ALLIED GOVERNMENT AGENCIES AND NON-GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

- Section 24. ***Allied Government Agencies*** - Allied government agencies that are performing veterinary services and related functions shall continue to do so. The DG of the NLVSA as the national competent authority shall call upon other allied government agencies and academe in the implementation of this Act.
- Section 25. ***Other Agencies and Sectors*** - The NLVSA shall establish agreements with other government sectors, private sectors, academe and other relevant agencies and stakeholders in the implementation of plans and programs in animal disease prevention, control, eradication and to ensure prompt mobilization of all essential personnel and resources in the event of animal disease emergencies.
- Section 26. ***Responsibilities*** - All government agencies and private entities performing veterinary and related functions shall cooperate fully with the Director General or (CVO) and comply with the set policies and technical standards for veterinary services.

Chapter VII

ANIMAL HEALTH, WELFARE AND ANIMAL PRODUCTION FOOD SAFETY

- Section 27. ***Duty to Report Notifiable Diseases*** - All animal and livestock producers, owners, operators, farm managers, farm veterinarians, animal facility operators and farm consultants who have in their possession or care, animals or animal products infected or suspected to be

infected, or have reasonable grounds to believe that the animal or animal product is infected with a Notifiable Disease are duty bound to report to the concerned Local Government Unit – Veterinary Office or to the NLVSA or to the RLVSO immediately within 24 hours by the quickest means possible.

These notifiable diseases include, among others Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD), Classical Swine Fever (CSF, Hog Cholera), Porcine Reproductive and Respiratory Syndrome (PRRS), Highly Pathogenic Avian Influenza (HPAI), Newcastle Disease (ND) or Avian Pest, Rabies, Caprine Arthritis Encephalitis (CAE), Anthrax and Hemorrhagic Septicemia.

The NLVSA shall provide a complete list of Notifiable Diseases and their reporting guidelines which shall be updated from time to time.

Section 28. ***Proper Disposal of Dead Animals and Potentially Infective Materials*** - Dead animals, manure, and other potentially infective materials from regular operations of farms, clinics, animal facilities shall be disposed in accordance with existing laws, rules and regulations and guidelines set by NLVSA.

Section 29. ***Animal Disease Surveillance and Epidemiology*** – All agencies performing veterinary services shall be responsible in monitoring animal disease situation by conducting regular surveillance of the animal and livestock population in their respective jurisdiction and are required to report periodically to the NLVSA.

Section 30. ***National Registry, Animal Identification and Traceability of Livestock*** – A national registry of animal facilities and establishments shall be established by the NLVSA. An animal identification system shall also be developed to be able to trace the origin of each animal or groups of animals. The NLVSA in consultation with livestock stakeholders shall also establish farm classification system in accordance with accepted standard and parameters.

Section 31. ***Mandatory Vaccination*** – To prevent, control, and eradicate emerging or re-emerging, communicable and exotic diseases, all animals shall have to be vaccinated in accordance with the implementing rules and regulations of this Act. In case of refusal to vaccinate despite due notice, the NLVSA shall have authority to require the LGU concerned to revoke the Mayor's and Business Permits issued for the operation of the establishment.

Section 32. ***Emergency Preparedness*** – The NLVSA shall draft the National Emergency Preparedness and Disaster Plans in response to animal health, welfare and animal production food safety. Measures shall also be developed to mitigate the effect of climate change in the livestock industry.

Section 33. ***Animal Welfare Practices*** - All animal producers, owners, operators, farm managers, farm veterinarians, animal facility operators and farm consultants who have in their possession or care, animals shall adopt and observe animal welfare regulations and practices.

Section 34. ***Animal Health, Welfare and Animal Production Food Safety Information System*** – The NLVSA shall develop a more effective animal health information system involving agencies and other stakeholders on animal health, welfare and animal production food safety including establishment of an effective information network.

Section 35. ***Risk Analysis*** – Principles of risk analysis shall be incorporated in all policy formulation and standard setting such as but not limited to the importation of animals, animal products, by-products, veterinary biological products, animal feeds and animal effects.

Section 36. ***Veterinary Public Health*** - The NLVSA shall take the lead role in the formulation and implementation of veterinary public health programs and activities particularly in the prevention and control of zoonoses and food safety.

Section 37. ***Mandatory Engagement of the Professional Services of a Veterinarian*** – All animal establishments such as but not limited to farms, zoos, kennels, apiaries, aviaries, livestock markets, animal race tracks and cockpits shall engage the professional services of a veterinarian based on minimum number of animals and other parameters to be prescribed by

the NLVSA, in consultation with concerned sectors.

Section 38. ***Farm Inspection and Certification*** – The NLVSA in consultation with stakeholders shall establish standards and parameters on farm inspection and certification.

Chapter VIII

QUARANTINE MEASURES AND FACILITIES (HB3363)

Section 39. ***Border Post Entry*** – The importation of animals, animal products, animal by-products, animal feeds and feed ingredients, veterinary drugs, veterinary biologicals, veterinary cosmetics and veterinary devices, and other potential vectors of animal diseases shall be subjected to veterinary inspection at ports of entry, and if warranted, placed under quarantine and tested as may be deemed appropriate and necessary. Such importation must comply with prescribed documents, such as, but not limited to (1) an Authority to Import duly issued by the NLVSA and secured prior to the importation, and (2) a International Health Certificate and/or Sanitary Phytosanitary (SPS) Clearance, or its equivalent, and such other documents as may be required by the NLVSA to be obtained from the proper authorities of the country of origin.

Section 40. ***Boarding Inspection of Carriers*** - All vessels and planes, domestic or international, are subject to boarding inspection upon arrival, and before departure for any unloaded and undeclared importation, unauthorized exportation, or local shipment of regulated or prohibited animals, animal products, animal by-products, animal feeds and feed ingredients, veterinary drugs, veterinary biologicals, veterinary cosmetics and veterinary devices, and other potential vectors of animal diseases. The captain, master or skipper, other officers and crew members, and agent of such carriers shall render assistance as the Veterinary Officer and his deputies may reasonably request to facilitate the discharge and disposal of illegal articles.

Section 41. ***Release from Customs Zone*** - The Bureau of Customs or its representative shall not allow the release of any article of importation that is subject to veterinary inspection, quarantine and examination procedures unless the NLVSA or its duly authorized representative has issued a Veterinary Quarantine Compliance Certificate or Lifting of Quarantine for the particular shipment, as the case may be.

Section 42. ***Prohibited Importation (HB683)*** - No importation of animals, animal products, animal by-products, animal effects and other related products (e.g. fodder crops, forage, etc.) shall be allowed from countries known or declared to be infected with a dangerous communicable animal disease or diseases which has been banned to export the said products to the Philippines and where there is a possible danger of spreading or introducing such disease or diseases into the Philippines by the importation of such item. All in-transit shipments at the time of the occurrence of the foreign disease or contagion shall be subjected to strict quarantine and laboratory testing, or automatically denied entry and/or confiscation and disposal, and as the NLVSA may determine, in the overriding interests of protecting the animal and public health of the country.

Section 43. ***Wildlife and Endangered Species*** – In accordance with Section 2 of Article 14 of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) on effect on domestic legislation and international conventions, all kinds of wildlife that are subject to veterinary quarantine regulations shall be under NLVSA jurisdiction.

Section 44. ***Exportation Clearance or Certificate*** - No animals, animal products, animal by-products, animal effects, animal feeds, veterinary drugs/products and veterinary biological products shall be allowed to be exported and loaded on board ships and airplanes or any vehicle unless (1) it is accompanied by a Veterinary Health Certificate/International Veterinary Certificate and/or Commodity Clearance duly issued by the NLVSA; and (2) it has complied with the quarantine requirements of the country of destination.

Section 45. ***Transshipment*** All transshipments of live animals, animal products, animal by-products,

- 1 animal effects, animal feeds, and veterinary products at domestic or international ports of
2 call shall comply with the animal health and welfare rules and regulations prescribed by the
3 NLVSA. HB 3363
- 4 Section 46. ***Domestic Shipping*** – All inland and inter-island shipments of animals, animal products,
5 animal by-products, animal effects, veterinary drugs and veterinary biological products from
6 one province or region to another shall be accompanied by a Veterinary Health Certificate or
7 Shipping Permit duly issued by the Director General or his duly-authorized representatives.
8 The Philippine Ports Authority (PPA), Philippine Fisheries Development Authority (PFDA)
9 and other agencies/entities managing fishports, and other ports shall require the owner, agent
10 or master of carrier, or vessel to secure and submit a copy of clearance from the Veterinary
11 Inspector or his deputies assigned thereat as a prerequisite to issuance of clearance to depart
12 from the port
- 13 Section 47. ***Illegal or Unauthorized Shipments*** - Shipments of animals, animal products, by-products,
14 veterinary drugs, veterinary biological products and animal feeds which are found to be in
15 violation of this Act and its rules and regulations, or orders of the Director General or his
16 veterinary quarantine officers shall be confiscated and disposed of in a manner prescribed by
17 the Director General.
- 18 Section 48. ***Registration of Commercial Livestock Traders and Shippers*** - All commercial livestock
19 trader and shippers or handlers who are engaged in the inter-provincial and regional
20 shipment/transportation of livestock shall register with the RLVSO in order to maintain
21 disease free areas and achieve safe, clean and orderly handling of commodities through the
22 various stages of marketing or distribution channels. HB 3363
- 23 Section 49. ***Prescribing Standard Operating Procedures for Veterinary Quarantine Services in all***
24 ***Seaports and Airports*** - The NLVSA shall establish a standard operating procedure for the
25 Veterinary Quarantine Services at the different quarantine facilities such as but not limited to
26 seaports and airports in the country. HB 3363
- 27 Section 50. ***Declaration of Infected Areas, Premises or Zones*** - If the Director General has reasonable
28 grounds to believe that any premises, place or area is infected with a Notifiable Disease, he
29 may, by a written order, declare an area to be infected. In case of an outbreak of
30 communicable animal and zoonotic diseases, the Director General has the power to declare
31 the area, region, province or specific farm or establishment under quarantine. HB 3363
- 32 Section 51. ***Movement in Infected Areas*** - Movement of animals, animal products, animal by-products,
33 animal effects, veterinary drugs, veterinary biological products, and transport vehicles
34 reasonably suspected to be exposed or contaminated with a Notifiable Disease shall be
35 restricted in areas, region, province or specific farm or establishment that are declared
36 infected, unless authorized by the Director General or his duly-authorized representative. In
37 the event of a disease outbreak, zones shall be established to restrict the movement of
38 animals between zones. Notices declaring the areas under quarantine shall be posted in a
39 conspicuous place in the Municipal and/or Barangay Hall, as the case may be. HB 3363
- 40 Section 52. ***Lifting of Order of Quarantine*** - The Director General shall issue an order lifting the
41 quarantine where the areas, region, province or specific farm or establishment declared to be
42 infected are eventually determined to be safe and out of danger from such infection. This
43 shall authorize the resumption of shipments within the affected places.
- 44 Section 53. ***Duty of Owner or Holder*** - A person who owns or is in charge of, or has in his or her
45 possession or control, an animal or animal product which the person has reasonable grounds
46 to suspect is infected with a notifiable disease must as far as practicable, keep that animal or
47 animal product separate from not infected animals or animal products.
- 48 Section 54. ***Controlled Shipments*** – It shall be unlawful for any person to possess, administer or use
49 infectious disease agents, for scientific, laboratory or other purposes, unless duly authorized
50 by a special permit by the Director General to handle hazardous materials.
- 51 Section 55. ***Depopulation Order*** - The Director General or his duly authorized representative may, by a

- 1 written Depopulation Order require the stamping out of healthy animals in declared infected
2 areas, premises or zones to prevent further spread of the disease.
- 3 Section 56. ***Destruction Order*** - The Director General or his duly authorized representative may, by a
4 written Destruction Order require the proper disposal of (1) any animal, animal product, and
5 effect, and if deemed necessary, any expendable material such as, but not limited to, litter,
6 bedding, feed bags, chick cartoon, animal crates, cage, and feeds which is infected, or
7 reasonably suspected to be infected with a Notifiable Disease; (2) confiscated expired,
8 banned, unregistered, counterfeit, veterinary biological products, veterinary drugs and
9 products. HB 3363
- 10 Section 57. ***Disinfection Order*** - The Director General or his duly authorized representative may, by a
11 written Disinfection Order, likewise, require the owner or person in charge or in apparent
12 control of an area which is infected, or reasonably suspected to be infected with a Notifiable
13 Disease, to clean and disinfect said area, including vehicles or any material found therein.
- 14 Section 58. ***Disease-Free Areas*** - Declaration of any area as disease-free shall be made by the NLVSA
15 Director General upon the recommendation of concerned animal health authorities of said
16 office. The declaration of an area as disease-free shall be subject to the guidelines set by
17 concerned NLVSA.
- 18 Section 59. ***Expenses of Quarantine and Authority to Auction*** - The owner, consignee or possessor of
19 the animals placed under quarantine shall reimburse the NLVSA for the expenses incurred
20 during the quarantine period of such animals. In case of his failure to do so after a Lifting
21 Order of Quarantine has been issued and duly served upon him, the NLVSA shall have the
22 right to auction off his animals to recover such expenses made.
- 23 Section 60. ***Non-Liability Clause***. All charges for storage, demurrage, cartage, labor and delays incident
24 to the inspection, cost of disinfection and disposition and other post entry requirement shall
25 be paid by the importer, exporter, shipper or consignee, as the case may be. HB 3363
- 26 Section 61. ***The Veterinary Quarantine Service Officer (VQSO)*** or any other authorized personnel of
27 the Center for Veterinary Quarantine Services shall not be held liable for damages to the
28 commodity or any other damages in the course of implementation of the provisions of this
29 Act, as well as its implementing rules and regulations.
- 30 Section 62. ***Disposal of food/garbage from vessels or planes***. No food provisions or garbage shall be
31 unloaded from vessels or airplanes if there is danger that such provision may introduce any
32 communicable animal disease into the country, especially if such provisions originated from
33 areas known to be infected with any communicable animal disease.
- 34 Section 63. ***Role of BOC, PPA, ATO & other ports***- The Bureau of Customs, Philippine Ports
35 Authority, Air Transportation Office and other seaport and airport authorities shall cooperate
36 with the veterinary quarantine service in the enforcement of this act or any rules and
37 regulations issued in the implementation thereto, and shall give effect to the same in so far as
38 they are connected with matters of shipping, navigation and transportation, or
39 shipment/transport of animals, animal products, animal by-products, animal effects, animal
40 feeds, and veterinary drugs/products and veterinary biologics. HB 3363
- 41 Section 64. ***Establishment of Veterinary Quarantine Stations*** - The NLVSA shall establish and
42 maintain quarantine stations for the detention, treatment and observation of animals in such
43 places as may be approved from time to time by the Secretary of Agriculture, and to place all
44 animals arriving from foreign and domestic ports or interior places in quarantine for such
45 time as he may deem necessary to prevent the introduction and spread of dangerous
46 communicable animal diseases.

47 Chapter IX

48 INDEMNIFICATION AND DISEASE ERADICATION TRUST FUND (HB684)

- 49 Section 65. ***Creation of a Disease Compensation and Eradication Trust Fund*** - A Disease

1 Compensation and Eradication Trust Fund shall be provided for in the General
2 Appropriations Act annually and be held by the Authority. It shall not be reduced and shall
3 not revert to the General Fund even if the same is not used for a current fiscal year. An initial
4 amount of Three Hundred Million Pesos (P 300,000,000.00) is hereby appropriated to start
5 the seed fund for the Disease Compensation and Eradication Trust Fund, subject to
6 replenishment and increase to such amounts as circumstances may require.

7 Section 66. **Fund Utilization** - The Fund shall be applied for the payment of compensation to the owner
8 of animals. It shall also be utilized for the payment of expenses directly connected with
9 controlling, eradicating or preventing, the spread of any animal disease that is notifiable or
10 emerging or re-emerging, exotic and zoonotic including administrative expenses.

11 Section 67. **Coverage of Compensation** - Only those animals that were stamped out pursuant to the
12 Depopulation Order issued by the Director General, as recommended by NAC-ADE and as
13 approved by the Secretary of Agriculture, to prevent further spread of the disease should be
14 indemnified. Dead animals due to notifiable and emerging or re-emerging, exotic and
15 zoonotic diseases are not compensable.

16 Section 68. **Compensable Amount** - The amount of compensation payable shall not be more than Sixty
17 Per Cent (60%) of the market value of the identified animals that are ordered depopulated on
18 account of a disease.

19 Section 69. **Issuance of Compensation Guidelines** - Guidelines for the payment of compensation shall
20 be prescribed by the NLVSA in consultation with stakeholders.

21 Chapter X

22 SANITARY AND PHYTOSANITARY (SPS) MEASURES, 23 TRADE FACILITATION & HARMONIZATION 24

25 Section 70. **International Harmonization** - The NLVSA shall study and review national standards on
26 animal health, animal welfare and farm feed and food safety, participate in international fora
27 relative to formulation and adoption of international standards and harmonize our national
28 standards with relevant international standards.

29 Section 71. **Certification Systems** - The NLVSA shall in consultation with stakeholders develop
30 certification systems including third party certifications on animal health, animal welfare,
31 farm feed and food safety products, services and production in accordance with national and
32 international standards.

33 Section 72. **Equivalence and Other Types of Sanitary Agreements** - The NLVSA in consultation with
34 other agencies and stakeholders shall develop, negotiate and implement appropriate level of
35 protection (ALOP) in relation to human and animal life and health in its territory, based on
36 the principle of equivalence and other types of sanitary and trade agreements with trading
37 partners such as but not limited to, the application of Sanitary and Phytosanitary (SPS)
38 Measures of the World Trade Organization (WTO).

39 Section 73. **Transparency** - The NLVSA shall have the responsibility to notify the OIE and/or the WTO
40 SPS Committee of the country's animal health, animal welfare and animal production food
41 safety sanitary and phytosanitary status and other relevant matters and inform stakeholders
42 on the changes in the regulations and decisions.

43 Section 74. **Zoning** - The NLVSA shall have the authority to apply for recognition to the OIE the
44 disease-free zones and shall implement relevant measures and practices to establish and
45 maintain these disease-free zones as based on physical boundaries.

46 Section 75. **Compartmentalization** - The NLVSA shall establish and maintain disease-free areas within
47 its territory in accordance with OIE recommendations.

48 Chapter XI

49 VETERINARY LABORATORIES

1 Section 76. **Certification/Accreditation** – The NLVSA shall be responsible for controlling both
2 government and private veterinary testing laboratories. Only duly certified/accredited
3 veterinary testing laboratory facilities are allowed to do diagnostic, feed analysis and other
4 services. The NLVSA shall develop guidelines and standards in the
5 certification/accreditation of various veterinary laboratory facilities and establish quality
6 systems towards international certification.

7 Section 77. **Biosafety and Biosecurity** – Standards and guidelines for laboratory biosafety and
8 biosecurity shall be established and practiced by veterinary and feed analysis laboratories per
9 national and international recommendations.

10 Section 78. **Proficiency Testing** – A system of quality assurance shall be developed and implemented to
11 ensure continuing proficiency and competency of certified/accredited diagnostic and assay
12 laboratories.

13 Section 79. **Establishment of a Specialized Diagnostic Laboratory for Swine Diseases** - (HB2575)
14 There shall be established a specialized laboratory for the diagnosis of swine diseases which
15 have grown in complexity in recent years and adversely affected all farms in the country.

16 Chapter XII

17 REGULATIONS ON ANIMAL FEEDS AND VETERINARY PRODUCTS

18 Section 80. **Implementing Rules and Regulations** – In consonance with RA 1556, as amended by PD
19 No. 7, RA 1071, and Act 3101, the NLVSA shall provide the necessary rules and
20 regulations on the manufacture, production, handling, storage, sale and use of veterinary
21 biological products, veterinary drugs and products, veterinary devices, mixed animal feeds,
22 feed ingredients, feed supplements, feed additives, concentrates, base feeds, base mixes,
23 specialty feeds, special feed nutrient preparations, other feed products and their
24 establishments which have to be followed and complied with for registration.

25 Section 81. **Registration and Licensing** – Each class, type, brand or trade mark of veterinary biological
26 products, veterinary drugs, veterinary devices, veterinary cosmetics, mixed animal feeds,
27 feed ingredients, feed supplements, feed additives, concentrates, base feeds, base mixes,
28 specialty feeds, special feed nutrient preparations, and other feed products, inclusive of the
29 establishments shall be registered individually and shall be assigned separate registration
30 numbers. A permanent Book of Records on the registration number, codes assigned on each
31 product and indicated therein the class, type, brand or trade mark, technical description and
32 manufacturer/importer of each product registered shall be kept.

33 Section 82. **Importation of Animal Feeds, Veterinary Biological products, Veterinary Drugs and**
34 **Related Products** – Importation of Animal Feeds, Veterinary Biological products,
35 Veterinary Drugs and Related Products without valid SPS and permits shall not be allowed
36 entry. All in-transit shipments at the time of the occurrence of the foreign disease or
37 contagion shall be subjected to strict quarantine and laboratory testing, or automatically
38 denied entry and/or confiscation and disposal, as the NLVSA may determine, in the
39 overriding interests of protecting the animal and public health of the country.

40 Section 83. **Temporary Revocation and Suspension of License or Permit, an/or Stoppage of**
41 **Production** – Failure of any grantee of license or permit to comply with any of the
42 requirements provided in this Act or its implementing rules and regulations shall be
43 sufficient ground for the immediate temporary suspension or revocation of such license or
44 permit, and/or stoppage of production and marketing for the particular product, with
45 authority to institute recall order for said product, subject to the institution of immediate
46 formal proceedings against the grantee or licensee.

47 Chapter XIII

48 ANIMAL AND LIVESTOCK TRADE PROMOTION

49 Section 84. **Animal Industry Market Profiles** – The NLVSA shall maintain a database of national,

1 regional and local animal industry market profile to support the business development of
2 animal industries and allied industries. It shall, likewise, integrate marketing information
3 and develop a knowledge management system of the different commodities/industries from
4 national to local level.

5 Section 85. **Country Animal Products Export Strategies** – The NLVSA shall formulate country animal
6 products export strategies, conduct research and benchmark export/import protocols, prepare
7 industry analysis and reports of potential export market of the different animal food
8 commodities, and spearhead in the promotion of exportable products and by-products to
9 improve the performance of local agribusiness establishments producing these tradable
10 products and by-products.

11 Section 86. **Contracting and Subcontracting Arrangement** – The NLVSA shall facilitate and
12 coordinate any contracting and subcontracting arrangement between local and foreign
13 investors, as necessary to boost and improve the animal, animal products and by-products
14 export and local trading performance of the animal industry stakeholders.

15 Section 87. **Export Incentives Programs**– The NLVSA shall formulate and implement the guidelines
16 and policies for the registration and certification of bona fide and eligible exporters and
17 facilitate and coordinate applicants and stakeholders that would like to avail of the different
18 export incentives programs of the NLVSA, Department of Agriculture and other government
19 agencies that are also providing related services to stimulate international marketing of
20 Philippine-made products.

21 Section 88. **Livestock Business and Industry Strategic Development** – The NLVSA shall formulate and
22 regularly update short, medium and long-term livestock business and industry strategic
23 development plan which will serve as guide and roadmap for the development of the
24 different industries in the livestock sector cut across the agribusiness supply chain.

25 Section 89. **Livestock Marketing Information System** – The NLVSA shall strengthen the livestock
26 marketing information system through the development of database systems, printed and
27 online publications of marketing information which could be readily accessible to the input
28 suppliers, producers, marketers, processors, industry associations, government and other
29 stakeholders.

30 Section 90. **Socio-economic and Marketing Research** – The NLVSA shall strengthen the utilization of
31 social-economic and marketing research to maximize the benefit of the different
32 methodologies and strategies of these interdisciplinary researches for the sustained growth
33 and development and the trade promotion of the country's animal industry's products and
34 services, considering the social and economic factors that contributes to the increase in
35 income, employment generation, improvement of standard of living and quality of life of
36 livestock farmers, traders, processors, consumers, and in incorporating the socio-economic
37 impact assessment, as an integral part of any project, program and policy implementation by
38 the NLVSA and DA on the different industries/commodities.

39 Section 91. **Marketing Information Governance** – The NLVSA shall support the development of
40 marketing information governance to achieve a more transparent, effective exchange and
41 higher coverage of marketing information dissemination in a national scale, to boost the
42 competitive advantage, strategic and supply chain management of local livestock farmers,
43 traders, processors and other relevant stakeholders, considering the different bilateral and
44 multilateral trade agreements in which the country is already a part of and continually
45 complying with national commitments to efficiently compete in the local and in the
46 international market.

47 Chapter XIV

48 UTILIZATION OF GOVERNMENT 49 FARMS

50 Section 92. **Public-Private Sector Participation** - The NLVSA shall maximize the economic potential of

1 its various animal stock and research farms for the benefit of the animal industry through
2 joint government and private sector initiative and participation in the utilization and
3 development thereof.

4 Section 93. ***Use of Government Lands for Quasi-Public Purposes*** - All lands of the government which
5 have been reserved, donated, leased or acquired for animal stock farms or breeding purposes
6 are hereby reclassified or allowed for quasi-public purposes. The Secretary of Agriculture
7 upon the recommendation of the NLVSA in coordination with LGUS shall have the
8 authority to enter into joint venture agreements over such lands with private individuals,
9 corporations and cooperatives with the end in view of maximizing their full potential for
10 livestock production purposes, processing and marketing in achieving the accelerated
11 development of the livestock industry in accordance with the currently approved zoning
12 ordinance.

13 Chapter XV

14 PROHIBITIONS AND PENALTIES

15 Section 94. ***Failure to Report Notifiable Diseases*** - All animal producers, owners, operators, farm
16 managers, farm veterinarians, and farm consultants who have sufficient knowledge of a
17 notifiable disease and fail to report it to the LGU Veterinary Office or to the NLVSA or to
18 the RLVSU immediately within 24 hours by the quickest means possible shall be fined for
19 the first offense, the amount of Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000.00) and for each
20 succeeding offense, imprisonment of Ten (10) days.

21 Section 95. ***Obstruction of Duty*** - The farm or establishment owner, transport operator, animal facility
22 operator or any person acting on his behalf who disobeys, evades, obstructs or hinders the
23 NLVSA Director General, or any of his enforcement officers or deputized officers to
24 perform his duty shall, upon conviction, be penalized by a fine of Twenty Thousand Pesos
25 (P20,000.00). A repetition of the same offense shall be punished by imprisonment of Six (6)
26 Months, and cancellation of the registration, permit or license of such person, farm or
27 establishment owner, transport operator whichever is applicable.

28 Section 96. ***False Statements*** - Any person who knowingly makes false declaration or misleading
29 statements in his application for license, certificate of product registration or permit; shall
30 upon conviction, be penalized by a fine of Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00) and
31 imprisonment of Six (6) months.

32 Section 97. ***Non-registration of Transport Facilities and Equipments*** - Failure of the owner to register
33 vessels, vehicles, and equipment related to transport of animals, animal products and by-
34 products, animal feeds and feedstuffs, veterinary drugs, veterinary biological products,
35 veterinary devices and other products shall upon conviction be penalized by a fine of Ten
36 Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00) and/or imprisonment of Sixty (60) days.

37 Section 98. ***Non-observance of Prescribed Procedures*** - Any person or establishment operator which
38 (a) during the course of regular operation fails to observe NLVSA approved procedures, or
39 (b) during seizure, detention or quarantine fails to seek clearance from NLVSA on the
40 handling, disposal, or destruction and removal of live or dead animals, animal products,
41 animal by-products, animal effects, veterinary biological products, veterinary drugs and
42 veterinary devices, animal feeds and feed ingredients, shall, upon conviction, be penalized
43 by a fine of Fifty Thousand pesos (P50,000.00) and imprisonment of Thirty (30) Days.

44 Section 99. ***Unauthorized Operation and Use of Registration Number*** - Establishment
45 operators/owners found without a valid License to Operate from NLVSA or unlawfully
46 using the registration number of another feed, veterinary biological products, veterinary
47 drugs and products establishments shall, upon conviction be penalized by a fine of One
48 Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00) and imprisonment of Thirty (30) Days.

49 Section 100. ***Failure to Display and Use of Fake or Expired Registration Certificate*** - Establishment
50 operators found not displaying the Registration Certificate or displaying fake or expired
51 certificates in the premises of the establishments shall, upon conviction, be penalized by a

fine of Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00) and closure of said establishments for second offense.

Section 101. ***Illegal Manufacture and Marketing of Animal Feeds, Veterinary Drugs and Veterinary Biological Products*** – Any person or establishment operator engaged in the manufacture, trade, importation, distribution, use or sale of banned, substandard, tampered, adulterated, deficient, unlabeled or mislabeled, unbranded or misbranded, expired, repacked, unregistered or damaged through improper handling of veterinary biological products, veterinary drugs and products, veterinary devices, mixed animal feeds, feed ingredients, feed supplements, feed additives, premixes, base feeds, base mixes, concentrates, specialty feeds, special feed nutrient preparations and other feed products, in any form shall, upon conviction be penalized by a fine of One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000.00) and imprisonment of Thirty (30) Days.

Section 102. ***Illegal Acts on Labeling and Use of Fake Veterinary Drugs and Veterinary Biological Products*** - Any person or establishment operator found guilty of tampering, altering, mutilating, destroying, obliterating or removing the whole or any part of the labeling material packages and tags or labels of, or using fake or adulterated veterinary biological products, veterinary drugs and veterinary devices, mixed animal feeds, feed ingredients, feed supplements, feed additives, base feeds, base mixes, concentrates, specialty feeds, special feed nutrient preparations and other feed products, in any form, shall be fined One Hundred Fifty Thousand Pesos (P150,000.00) and punished with imprisonment of Sixty (60) Days.

Section 103. ***Illegal Use and Sale of Veterinary and Human Drugs*** - Any person found to be using and selling unlawful or unauthorized veterinary or human drugs for animals raised for human consumption shall upon conviction, be penalized by a fine of Twenty Five Thousand Pesos (P25,000.00).

Section 104. ***Refusal to Vaccinate Animals*** -Refusal of an owner or caretaker to have his animals vaccinated during outbreaks of notifiable and priority diseases, emerging or re-emerging diseases and exotic diseases shall, upon conviction, be penalized by a fine of not less than Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000.00) and/or imprisonment of Ten (10) Days.

Section 105. ***Other Violations of this Act*** - Any person, officers of corporation, association, organization or establishment found to be in violation of any of the provisions of this Act that are not covered by the foregoing provisions, or rules and regulations issued therewith, shall, upon conviction, be penalized by a fine of Fifty Thousand (P 50,000.00) Pesos but not more than One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P 100,000.00) and/or imprisonment of Six (6) Months to One (1) Year, at the discretion of the court.

Section 106. ***Exceptions under certain conditions*** -Nothing in this Chapter shall be construed as requiring the Director General to certify for prosecution any first violation of this Act whenever sufficient compliance and public interest, with no damage caused to the public or any individual, will be adequately served by a suitable written notice of violation and warning duly endorsed by the appropriate Advisory Committee described under Chapter IV hereof, and recommended by the Director General to the Secretary of Agriculture for approval.

Section 107. ***Repeated Violation*** – Any person found to have committed a second violation of the same offense shall suffer the penalty of fine and/or imprisonment prescribed for said offense.

Chapter XVI

REVOCATION AND SUSPENSION PROCEEDINGS

Section 108. ***Institution of Complaint*** - The Director General or upon the instance of any interested party may file a complaint before the hearing committee for the formal suspension or revocation of the license or permit duly issued by the NLVSA for violation of its terms and conditions, or any provisions of the rules and regulations applicable thereto.

Section 109. ***Hearing Committee*** - A hearing committee is hereby created to hear any complaint filed

under the preceding section. It shall be composed of at least three (3) members. The Director General or in his unavailability, the deputy head of the Center for Animal Products and Services Regulation shall act as Chairman with the Division Chief of the commodity concerned and any other Division Chief of NLVSA, as may be designated by the Director General, as members thereof.

Section 110. **Powers and Functions** – The Hearing Committee shall have the following powers and functions:

1. To conduct formal investigation and hearings on the cases before it and make recommendations for appropriate actions thereon for approval of the Director General;
2. To administer oaths, issue summons and subpoenas requiring the attendance and testimony of witnesses or the production of such books, papers, contracts, records, statement of accounts, agreements, and other documents as may be material to a just determination of the matter under investigation, and to testify in any investigation or hearing conducted in pursuance to this Act.
3. To hold any person in contempt, directly or indirectly, and impose appropriate penalties therefor ranging from One Thousand to Ten Thousand (P1,000.00-P10,000.00) Pesos.
4. To enjoin any or all acts involving or arising from any case pending before it which, if not restrained forthwith, may cause grave or irreparable damage to any party or the government;
5. The Committee shall use every and all reasonable means to ascertain the facts, issues and applicable laws, rules and jurisprudence in each case speedily and objectively and without regard to technicalities of law or procedure, all in the interest of due process.

In any proceeding before the Committee, the parties may be represented by a legal counsel. The Committee report when approved by the Director General shall be final and binding on the parties after the lapse of fifteen (15) days from its date of receipt by said parties. Subject to execution pending appeal, any aggrieved party may appeal to the Secretary of Agriculture within the same period.

Chapter XVII

GENERAL PROVISIONS

Section 111. **Confidentiality of Technical Information** - The NLVSA shall take such measure as may be necessary to protect trade, industrial and policy data of industry stakeholders acquired or gathered during the course of official business when disclosure of such information will prejudice the competitiveness or operational viability of concerned persons or entities.

Section 112. **Regulatory Fees and Retention of Income**

1. The NLVSA shall have the authority to impose charges and fees for the services rendered subject to the approval of the Secretary of Agriculture which are payable to the NLVSA.
2. All income of the NLVSA shall be deposited in an authorized government depository bank as a special regulatory fund. Any interest earned by such fund shall form part of the retained income. Such fund shall be used primarily for but not limited to the acquisition and expansion of office and laboratory space, human resource development and expansion, purchase of laboratory equipment and motor vehicles, the upgrading of its current facilities and equipment, and maintenance, other operating expenses of the central and regional laboratories, and other activities, services of the agency in the performance of its mandate and support enforcement and monitoring activities. HB 3363
3. The special regulatory fund shall be allowed to accept grants, donations and other endowments from local and external sources in accordance with pertinent laws, rules and regulations.
4. Any contribution, donation, bequest, subsidy or financial aid which may be made to the NLVSA for the implementation of this Act shall constitute as an allowable deduction from the taxable income of the donor/giver and shall be exempted from donor's tax.

1 5. The retention, use and application of this fund shall not be delayed, amended, altered, or
2 modified, or affected in any way by an order or directive from any executive office, but will
3 be subject only to the general accounting rules and guidelines by the Commission on Audit
4 (COA). The primary purpose of the fund as herein stated shall prevail over any other
5 purpose that may be pursued by NLVSA on its own initiative or through an order or
6 directive by any higher office. The NLVSA shall submit annually to the Secretaries of
7 Agriculture and Budget & Management a report on how funds were utilized including its
8 accomplishments.

9 6. There shall also be established a legal fund out of the interest earned from the retained
10 income for use in case of legal actions against the officials, employees of the NLVSA in the
11 course of the exercise of their official functions and duties.

12 Section 113. ***Appointment of Veterinary Attaches*** – The Department of Agriculture shall strengthen the
13 international animal health, disease surveillance, and information gathering capability by
14 the appointment of veterinary attaches in countries that are major livestock trading partners.
15 In other countries, the NLVSA, subject to the approval of the Secretary of Agriculture, and
16 in coordination with other government entities concerned, may require Filipino
17 representatives abroad and foreign-based personnel to assist in the collection of data on
18 animal health, disease surveillance, and other related information.

19 Section 114. ***Foreign and Local Grants and Aids*** – The NLVSA, in itself, or in collaboration with other
20 agencies shall receive grants and other funds for its research activities and various
21 programs.

22 Section 115. ***Veterinary Education*** – The NLVSA in coordination with CHED and PVMA shall
23 regularly provide recommendations to make veterinary medical curriculum responsive to
24 the needs and imperatives of the animal industry.

25 Section 116. ***Mandatory Review.*** – The Congress of the Philippines shall undertake a mandatory review
26 of this Act at least once every five (5) years and as often as it may deem necessary, to
27 ensure that veterinary policies and guidelines remain responsive to changing circumstances.

28 Chapter XVIII

29 TRANSITORY PROVISIONS

30 Section 117. ***Implementing Rules and Regulations*** – The NLVSA shall formulate and recommend to
31 the Secretary of Agriculture the necessary rules and regulations for the full implementation
32 of this Act, provided, however, that the formulated rules and regulations shall be submitted
33 to both Houses of Congress for information and guidance. Such rules and regulations shall
34 take effect upon publication in 2 newspapers of general circulation and submission of three
35 (3) certified copies thereof to the National Administrative Register of the UP Law Center.
36 HB 3363

37 Section 118. ***Creation and Reclassification of Positions*** – The NLVSA is hereby authorized to create,
38 upgrade, collapse or reclassify existing positions of veterinary and related positions
39 necessary to effectively implement the provisions of this Act.

40 Chapter XIX

41 FINAL PROVISIONS

42 Section 119. ***Appropriations*** – *The appropriations for the NLVSA included in the budget of the*
43 *Department of Agriculture under the current General Appropriations Act shall be used to*
44 *effectively carry out the implementation of this Act. The appropriation may be augmented*
45 *by the income which the agency is authorized to use under this Act. Thereafter, such sums*
46 *as may be necessary for its continued implementation shall be included in the annual*
47 *General*

48 The amount of One Hundred Million Pesos (P 100,000,000.00) shall be appropriated for the

1 establishment of a specialized diagnostic laboratory for swine diseases as provided under
2 Sec. 82 of this Act. (HB 2575)

3 Section 120. **Repealing Clause** - Any provision of law or regulation inconsistent with this Act shall be
4 considered modified or repealed accordingly. However, the provisions of Act No. 3639,
5 Republic Act No. 8435, as amended, otherwise known as the "Agricultural Fisheries
6 Modernization Act", Executive Order No. 292, otherwise known as the "Administrative
7 Code of 1987", Republic Act No. 1556, as amended by Presidential Decree No. 7,
8 otherwise known as the "Livestock and Poultry Feeds Act", Act No. 3101, Republic Act
9 No. 1071, Republic Act No. 1578, otherwise known as the "Livestock Promotion Fund",
10 Batas Pambansa Blg. 97, Republic Act No. 8485, otherwise known as the "Animal Welfare
11 Act of 1998", Republic Act No. 9842, otherwise known as the "Anti-Rabies Act of 2007",
12 and such other laws which are not consistent with this Act shall remain valid and in full
13 force and effect.

14 Section 121. **Separability Clause** - If any portion or provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or
15 invalid, the other portions or provisions hereof, which are not affected thereby, shall
16 continue to be in full force and effect.

17 Section 122. **Effectivity** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official
18 Gazette or in two (2) newspaper of general circulation.

APPROVED,