



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila



SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL No. **5746**

Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE EMI CALIXTO-RUBIANO

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Under the principle of the waste hierarchy, the greatest level of effort should be made when trying to reduce the level of surplus food created. Prevention of food waste at source must be avoided in order to retain valuable materials and so as not to warrant a costly waste management exercises. While some food 'waste' is unavoidable, businesses and manufacturers can use modern computer monitoring systems and new technologies to significantly reduce the volume. Accordingly, based on the study for the International Congress at the Interpack 2011 Germany, entitled: "Global Food Losses and Food Waste", 1/3 of food produced for human consumption is lost or wasted globally, which amounts to 1.3 billions tons per year.

In case of food manufacturing, steps should be taken to assess the root cause of 'waste' including the possibility of human error or a technological fault. Technology exists to monitor the points in a production process where surplus food is created. If operatives are able to key in additional elements of details about the source of the food waste, computer analysis will then help the manufacturer process the data, and create reports according to specific machine, production lines and time periods.

Hence, the objective of this bill is to effectively establish a policy that will ensure an information management system in the process of redistributing and recycling food waste, such as a "*Technology Food Waste Management System*" with a corresponding *Food Related Business Waste Strategy* coupled with *National Zero Food Waste Scheme*. Such policy will address the needed "food production", "proper handling", including proper food waste management in business restaurants, grocery stores, fast food outlets, and food companies in order to prevent health hazards as

well as the promotion of food security by donating excess or unsold "edible" food to charities and food banks that can still utilized to be able to address the needs of the people who are in the state of hunger estimated to be around 2.6 million Filipino families.

This bill is a counterpart measure of Senate Bill No. 357 introduced by Senator Paolo Benigno "Bam" Aquino IV and Senate Bill No. 984 introduced by Senator Francis Pangilinan in the Philippine Senate of the present Congress.

Hence, approval of this measure is earnestly sought.



EMI CALIXTO-RUBIANO
Representative
Lone District of Pasay City



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SEVENTEENTH CONGRESS

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HOUSE RESOLUTION No. 5746

Introduced by REPRESENTATIVE EMI CALIXTO-RUBIANO

**AN ACT
PROVIDING FOR A SYSTEM OF REDISTRIBUTING
AND RECYCLING FOOD WASTE TO PROMOTE FOOD SECURITY**

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

SEC. 1. Short Title. - This Act shall be known as the "Zero Food Waste Act."

Sec. 2. Declaration of Policy. – The State recognizes that each person has a right to an adequate standard of living, including to sufficient food. It is hereby declared a policy of the State to safeguard food security, end hunger, and promote the efficient use of the country's food resources.

Towards this end, the State shall adopt a system to promote, facilitate, and ensure the reduction of food waste through redistribution and recycling. The massive amount of food wasted and the considerable number of people going hungry daily is a breach that this Act intends to correct.

Sec. 3. Definition of Terms. – As used in this Act, the following terms shall mean:

- a. *Food insecure* refers to persons or groups of persons who have difficulty producing or purchasing food to avoid hunger;

- b. *Edible food waste* refers to food discarded in the retail and consumption stages, determined to be fit for consumption based on standards set by the National Nutrition Council;
- c. *Food waste reduction* refers to the decrease of food waste generation, the redistribution of food waste to the food insecure or the recycling of food as fertilizer or compost;
- d. *Food-related businesses* refers to public and private businesses involved in the manufacturing and processing of food products (i.e. food manufacturers), private businesses involved in the wholesaling and retailing of food products (i.e. supermarkets), and private businesses involved in serving food products (i.e. restaurants, cafeterias, and hotels);
- e. *Food banks* refer to non-profit, charitable or other social mission-driven organizations that distribute food to the food insecure;
- f. *Inedible food waste* refers to food discarded in the retail and consumption stages, determined to be unfit for consumption based on standards set by the National Nutrition Council; and
- g. *Waste management and recycling enterprises* refer to organizations that manage inedible food waste by converting these into fertilizers or compost.

Sec. 4. National Zero Food Waste Campaign. – The National Nutrition Council (NNC), in close coordination with the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Department of Education (DepEd), the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the Department of Health (DOH), other concerned agencies and Local Government Units (LGUs), is hereby tasked to undertake a National Zero Food Waste Campaign to raise awareness about the consequences of wasted food, the Zero Food Waste Act, and the food waste reduction efforts required of food-related businesses and households through the LGUs. The Campaign shall also promote the food waste reduction hierarchy, and recommend means of reducing individual food waste.

DepEd shall have the duty to ensure that the education curriculum includes materials on the current global and national food waste situation, on ways to reduce food waste, on national and local food waste prevention programs, and regarding the provisions of this Act. DTI shall encourage food-related businesses to purchase lower-price, non-standard size or shape produce to be used in their food products.

Sec. 5. Food-related Business Waste Reduction Strategy. – Food-related businesses such as food manufacturers, supermarkets, restaurants, cafeterias, and hotels are hereby required to:

- a. Submit an initial report to the DSWD and DENR that contains data on the amount (in tons) of its edible and inedible food waste in the past year,

organized according to the manner of disposal, including donation, composting or discarding;

- b. Submit an annual report to the DSWD and DENR that contains data on the amount (in tons) of its edible and inedible food waste in the immediately precedent year, organized according to the manner of disposal, including donation, composting, or discarding;
- c. Enter into a contract with food banks to redistribute edible food waste to the food insecure;
- d. Shoulder the costs of transporting edible food waste from business location to the food bank's warehouse or distribution center;
- e. Ensure that edible food waste is unadulterated and in good condition upon arrival at the food bank's distribution center;
- f. Enter into a contract with waste management and recycling enterprises to recycle inedible food waste into fertilizer or compost;
- g. Shoulder the costs of transporting inedible food waste from collection areas to waste management sites; and
- h. Reach and maintain food waste levels at the target set by the DENR.

Sec. 6. *National Zero Food Waste Scheme.* – DSWD, as the coordinating agency between the food businesses and food banks, shall:

- a. Provide guidelines and standards for the collection, storage, and distribution of edible food donated to food banks;
- b. Ensure that food businesses have entered into contracts with food banks and issue acceptance certificates to food businesses;
- c. Promote linkages between food banks and LGUs to create a community-based food distribution system for the food insecure; and
- d. Create a Self-Sufficiency Program that will provide the food insecure with skills training on managing food banks and livelihood programs to avoid the dependence on donation solely.

Sec. 7. *Household and Local Government Unit Waste Reduction Strategy.* – LGUs are hereby required to:

- a. Submit an initial report that contains data on the amount (in tons) of inedible food waste that can be recycled as raw material for fertilizers or compost to DENR;

- b. Submit an annual report that contains data on the amount (in tons) of inedible food waste that has been recycled as raw material for fertilizers or compost to the DENR;
- c. Initiate waste segregation efforts per household through local campaigns;
- d. Enter into a contract with waste management and recycling enterprises to recycle inedible food waste from households into fertilizer or compost;
- e. Shoulder the costs of transporting inedible food waste from collection areas to waste management sites; and
- f. Reach and maintain inedible food waste levels at the target set by the DENR.

Sec. 8. Penal Provisions. - The penalty of *prision correccional* will be imposed on any individual, private or public, who deliberately makes food waste unfit for consumption. The same penalty is applicable to private or public actors who prevent the redirection of edible food waste to food banks or inedible food waste to waste management and recycling enterprises.

Sec. 9. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the National Nutrition Council, in coordination with the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD), the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), the Department of Education (DepEd), the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), the Department of Health (DOH), and other relevant government agencies, shall promulgate the necessary rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

Sec. 10. Periodic Review. The implementing agencies shall submit an annual report to Congress on the progress in the implementation of this Act.

Sec. 11. Appropriations. The funds needed to implement this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Sec. 12. Separability Clause. – Should any provision herein be declared unconstitutional, the same shall not affect the validity of the other provisions of this Act.

Sec. 13. Repealing Clause. All laws, decrees, orders, rules, and regulations or other issuances or parts inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Sec. 14. Effectivity. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in any two (2) newspapers of general circulation in the Philippines.

Approved,