

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

Seventeenth Congress
Second Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. **6235**



Introduced by Representative Sharon S. Garin

EXPLANATORY NOTE

According to the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) of the United Nations, the world is producing more than enough food to feed everyone, yet hunger is still one of the most urgent development challenges. On a global scale, the annual production of food can feed about 10 billion people; however, about 30 per cent of these food are wasted and more than 50,000 people are dying every day because of poverty and poverty-related disease.

Food that is fit for human consumption, but is not consumed because it is or left to spoil or discarded by retailers or consumers is called food waste. This may be because of rigid or misunderstood date marking rules, improper storage, buying or cooking practices.

In the Philippines, based on the First Quarter 2017 Social Weather Survey, 11.9% or an estimated 2.7 million families experiencing involuntary hunger at least once in the past three months. This is 2 points below the 13.9% (est. 3.1 million families) quarterly Hunger in December 2016.

Currently, there is no law in the Philippines that specifically tackles combatting the increasing amount of food waste in the country.

In other countries, there have already been measures done to prevent food waste. Italy has a law that enables schools, supermarkets, and restaurants to donate clean surpluses and leftovers to those in need. One city in Belgium requires supermarkets to donate their surpluses to food banks. Japan implements a "Food Recycling Law" which requires food businesses to safely convert their food wastage into raw materials for animal feeds or fertilizers.

With this in mind, this bill seeks to form a Food Waste Reduction Committee composed by the secretaries of the following agencies: National Nutrition Council (NNC), 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), the Department of Science and Technology (DOST), the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG). The Committee shall be in charge of implementing the provisions of this Act.

This bill enumerates various food-waste reduction strategies for food-related businesses, LGUs, and households, among others. Research shall also be conducted into how to efficiently use food waste generated by businesses and households. The bill also calls for the

Food Waste Reduction Committee to mandate supermarkets and grocery stores to sell surplus or left-over but still fit for human consumption food to consumers at discounted prices.

Much is needed to be done to reduce food wastage. Behavioral change is necessary to combat this problem. It is high time for the government do its part not only for the Philippines, but also because this has become an alarming global problem.

For the foregoing reasons, the passage of this bill is earnestly sought.



SHARON S. GARIN
AAMBIS-Owa Partylist

1 Republic of the Philippines
2 HOUSE OR REPRESENTATIVES
3 Quezon City, Metro Manila
4

5 Seventeenth Congress
6 First Regular Session
7

8 HOUSE BILL NO. **6235**
9

10 **Introduced by Representative Sharon S. Garin**
11
12

13 **AN ACT**
14 **REDUCING FOOD WASTE THROUGH FOOD DONATION AND**
15 **FOOD WASTE RECYCLING**
16

17 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the Philippines in*
18 *Congress assembled:*
19

20 **SECTION 1. Short Title** – This Act shall be known as the “**Food Waste**
21 **Reduction Act**”

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

26 Towards this end, the state shall adopt a system to promote, facilitate, and
27 ensure the reduction of food waste through redistribution and recycling. The
28 massive amount of food wasted and the considerable number of people going
29 hungry daily is a breach that this Act intends to correct.
30

SEC 3. *Food Waste Reduction Committee* – The Food Waste Reduction Committee, hereinafter referred to as the Committee, is hereby created under the Office of the President. The Committee shall be in charge of implementing the provisions of this Act and shall be composed of the following:

- a) Secretary of the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) as Chairperson;
- b) Secretary of the National Nutrition Council (NNC) as Vice-Chairperson;
- c) Secretary of the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR);
- d) Secretary of the Department of Education (DepEd);
- e) Secretary of the Department of Health (DOH);
- f) Secretary of the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI);
- g) Secretary of the Department of Science and Technology (DOST);
- h) Secretary of the Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG).

Title I

Food-Related Businesses

SEC 4. *Scope and Coverage* – The Committee shall determine which businesses, such as supermarkets, grocery stores, restaurants, school and office cafeterias and other similar food establishments, shall be covered by this Act

1 based on the size, number of clientele and amount of food being sold,
2 distributed or manufactured for public consumption.

3 **SEC 5. Food Waste Reduction Strategy for Food-related Business –**

4 Food-related businesses, as determined in Sec 4 of this Act, are hereby required
5 to:

6 a. *Food Donation –*

7 1. Donate all of its surplus or left-over but still fit for human
8 consumption food to accredited charitable institutions and
9 foundations as determined in Sec 7(a);

10 2. Shoulder the costs of transporting donated food from
11 business location to the accredited charitable institutions
12 and foundations;

13 3. Ensure that donated food is unadulterated and in good
14 condition upon arrival at the accredited charitable
15 institutions and foundation;

16 b. *Food Waste Recycling –*

17 1. Enter into an agreement with waste management and
18 recycling enterprises to recycle food waste into fertilizer,
19 compost or any other method;

20 2. Shoulder the costs of transporting food waste from
21 collection areas to waste management sites; and

- 1 3. Reach and maintain food waste levels at the target set by
2 the Committee, particularly the Department of
3 Environment and Natural Resources (DENR); and
4 4. Recycle food waste according to any other guidelines
5 mandated by the Committee.

6 **SEC 6. *Surplus Section in Supermarkets*** – The Committee, particularly
7 the Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), shall mandate supermarkets and
8 grocery stores, as determined in Sec 4 of this Act, to sell surplus or left-over but
9 still fit for human consumption food to consumers at discounted prices. This can
10 be done in conjunction or in substitution of the provisions of Sec 5(a).

11 **SEC 7. *Accreditation, Certification and Incentives*** – The Committee
12 shall serve as the coordinating agency between the food businesses and
13 accredited charitable institutions and foundations. To this end, the Committee
14 shall perform the following:

- 15 a. *Accreditation* – Provide a criteria and system of accreditation which
16 will allow said institutions and foundations to be beneficiaries of this
17 Act. Such institutions and foundations must conduct feeding programs
18 or distribute food to the needy and food insecure, this may include
19 food banks, soup kitchens, and other similar establishments.

1 b. *Certification* – Issue acceptance certificates to food businesses once
2 said businesses have entered into agreements with charitable
3 institutions and foundations.

4 c. *Incentives* – Promote food donation by giving out awards, certificates
5 and other incentives to businesses and households who comply with
6 this Act.

7 **SEC 8. *Food Safety*** – The Committee, particularly the Department of
8 Health (DOH) and the National Nutrition Council (NNC) shall provide
9 guidelines, such as health and safety standards in the collection, storage, and
10 distribution of food donations in Sec 5(a).

11 **SEC 9. *Non-liability for damages*** – To encourage the donation of food,
12 all businesses, as determined in Sec 4 of this Act, shall not be subject to any
13 civil or criminal liability arising from the nature, age, packaging, or condition of
14 the donated food in Sec 5(a).

15 **SEC 10. *Community-based Food Distribution System*** – The Committee
16 shall ensure local government participation and shall provide support to Local
17 Government Units (LGUs) to form partnerships with local food businesses and
18 local charitable institutions and foundations to create a community-based food
19 distribution system for the food insecure.

Title II
Households and Local Government Units

SEC 11. *Food Waste Reduction Strategy for Households and Local Government Units* – The Committee, in coordination with Local Government Units (LGUs) shall perform the following:

a. *Assessment* –

1. Create an initial report, per local government, that contains data on the amount of food waste that can be recycled as raw material for fertilizers, compost, or any other method;
2. Set target minimum food waste levels per local government;

b. *Food Waste Recycling* –

1. Initiate food waste reduction efforts per household through local awareness and advocacy campaigns;
2. Encourage local governments to enter into a contracts with waste management and recycling enterprises to recycle inedible food waste from households and communities into fertilizer , compost or any other method;
3. Provide incentives to local governments to develop a system for transporting household food waste from the home to waste management and recycling sites and shouldering transportation costs;

- 1 4. Ensure that local governments reach and maintain inedible food
2 waste levels at the target set by the Committee, particularly the
3 Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR);
4 and
5 5. Recycle food waste according to any other guidelines mandated
6 by the Committee.

7 **SEC 12. *Food Waste Utilization*** – The Committee, particularly the
8 Department of Science and Technology (DOST), shall conduct research and
9 studies into how to efficiently use and utilize food waste generated by
10 businesses and households, and if practicable, mandate alternative methods of
11 food waste recycling in lieu of those provided in Sec 5(b) and Sec 11(b).

12 **SEC 13. *Implementing Rules and Regulations*** – Within sixty (60) days
13 from the effectivity of this Act, the Committee shall promulgate the necessary
14 rules and regulations for the effective implementation of this Act.

15 **SEC 14. *Periodic Review*** – The Committee shall submit an annual report
16 to Congress on the progress in the implementation of this Act.

17 **SEC 15. *Appropriations*** – The funds needed to implement this Act shall
18 be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

19 **SEC 16. *Separability Clause*** – If, for any reason, any section or
20 provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other sections or
21 provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

1 **SEC 17. *Repealing Clause*** – All other laws, decrees, executive orders,
2 issuances, rules and regulations, or part thereof inconsistent with this Act are
3 hereby likewise repealed or amended accordingly.

4 **Sec 18. *Effectivity*** – This Act shall effect fifteen (15) days after its
5 publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspapers of general
6 circulation.

7 Approved,