



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

EIGHTEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session

House Bill No. **8506**



Introduced by Representative Rico B. Geron

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Section 2 of RA 9296 as amended by RA 10536 provides that the state's policy to ensure food security and provide safety and quality consumer products related to agriculture to assure protection of the public against unreasonable risks of injury and hazards to health.

The transportation of basic agricultural commodities such as pork and chicken meat, vegetables, fresh fruits, sugar, or grains like rice or wheat should always be on constant control and supervision. There should be a thorough inspection of these goods where it can easily enter the market because of lenient government handling. When it comes to transport of meat based products, consumption of health hazards may cause infection that could spread on the body and can lead to death. Under critical situation in terms of disease risk management and regulation of prices of meat in the market would at least be part of the government's efforts to prevent, respond to and recover from pests and diseases affecting agricultural products that threaten the economy and environment.

Also, this bill seeks to protect consumers against sudden increase or decrease on prices of basic agricultural products and stops unfair, deceptive and fraudulent business practices by developing rules to maintain a fair marketplace, and educating consumers and businesses about their rights and responsibilities.

Under current regulations, the economic impact surfaces from meats which are affected and free from the disease. Requiring a registration and issuance of licenses to "byaheros" will pave the way towards improving regulations to all agriculture meat-based products.

In view of the foregoing, passage of this bill is earnestly sought.


RICO B. GERON
Party-list, AGAP



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AN ACT
REQUIRING REGISTRATION, LICENSE AND/OR PERMIT FOR THE
TRANSPORT OF ALL AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS AND COMMODITIES

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. This Act shall be known as the "Biyahero Act of 2020".

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. It is the state's policy to ensure food security and provide safety and quality consumer products related to agriculture to assure protection of the public against unreasonable risks of injury and hazards to health.

SECTION 3. DEFINITION OF TERMS- For the purpose of interpreting the provisions of this Act, the following terms shall mean:

- a.) Basic Commodities for purposes of this Act includes: rice, corn, bread, fresh, dried and canned fish and other marine products, fresh pork, beef and poultry meal; fresh eggs; fresh and processed milk; fresh vegetables; root crops; coffee; sugar; instant noodles; salt and such other goods as maybe included under Section 3 of this Act;
- b.) Prime Commodities include fresh fruits, flour, dried, processed and/or canned pork, beef and poultry meat; dairy products not falling under the basic necessities; onions; garlic; vinegar; soy sauce; poultry; swine and cattle feeds; swine and cattle and such other goods as maybe included under Section 3 of this Act.

- c.) Transportation means the movement of goods and persons from place to place and the various means by which such movement is accomplished.
- d.) Transport of Live animals refers to mode of transport that will bring live animals such as pigs, haul, cows, carabao, fowls and chicken, necessary form consumption, from one place to another.

SECTION 4. Scope and Application; Registration and License- Any person, whether natural or juridical, who intends to transports basic agricultural products and commodities are hereby required to register and secure a license and/or permit from the Department of Agriculture.

SECTION 5. Role of the Land Transportation Office. The LTO shall require in registration and providing for the issuance of permanent number plates to owners of motor vehicles used in transporting agricultural products and commodities upon submission of the owner license/registration duly acquired from the Department of Agriculture. The registration shall provide for the point of origin to the destination point of the goods and commodities being transported.

SECTION 6. PENALTIES. Any person who shall be found guilty violating the provisions of this Act shall be meted the following penalties:

- a) First Offense - A fine of Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000.00)
- b) Second Offense- A penalty of three (3) months imprisonment and a fine of Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000).
- c) Third Offense- A penalty of Five (5) months imprisonment and fine of One Hundred Thousand Pesos (P100,000).

Aside from the penalties, person who are guilty of five violations shall no longer be allowed to operate and their license shall also be revoked.

SECTION 7. Appropriation. – The initial funding of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of Department of Agriculture

(DA). Thereafter, such amount as may be necessary for the continuous implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SECTION 8. Implementing Rules and Regulations. – To carry out the provisions of this Act, the implementing rules and regulations shall be promulgated by the Bureau of Animal and Industry (BAI) upon the approval of the Department of Agriculture (DA) not later than ninety (90) days after the approval of this Act.

SECTION 9. Separability Clause. – Should any provision of this Act or any part thereof be declared invalid, the other provisions, so far as they are separable from the invalid ones, shall remain in force and effect.

SECTION 10. Repealing Clause. – All law, decrees, orders, and issuances, or portions thereof, which are inconsistent with the provisions of this Act, are hereby repealed, amended or modified accordingly.

SECTION 11. Effectivity. – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in at least two (2) newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,