

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Philippines

NINETEENTH CONGRESS
Second Regular Session
House Bill No **9536**



Introduced by **HON. JANETTE L. GARIN**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Rice is a part of the daily meals of Filipinos. However, statistics show that Filipinos also waste a significant amount of rice every year. For instance, data of the DOST-Food and Nutrition Research Institute showed that the country wasted an average of 46g of rice per household every day in 2015. At 22.975 million Filipino households during the same year, that was equivalent to around 384,957 tons, which was worth PhP7.28B of imported rice (based on 2015 prices). It was 26% of our imported rice during the same year. That wasted amount can feed 2.5 million Filipinos for a year. Needless to say that all the resources that were used to produce all these wasted rice grains such as the water, electricity, and farm inputs were wasted, as well.

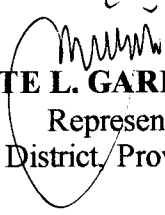
The staggering reality of total food wastage on data underscores the urgent need for sustainable practices and mindful consumption.

The bill mandates all food establishments such as restaurants, eateries, canteens, dining facilities, food establishments, hotels, inns, that serve cooked rice to allow the serving of half-cup rice to minimize food waste, promote balanced and sustainable eating habits and ensuring healthier meal portions. Through this, consumers may also lessen their expenses as well as reduce rice wastage.

By implementing this measure, the legislation envisions a future where individuals have more freedom in their food options, establishments prioritize responsible serving practices to minimize food wastage, and society as a whole benefits from a more sustainable and balanced approach to food consumption.

According to Department of Agriculture's PhilRice, 46 cities have implemented half-cup rice serving option, including Quezon City, Manila, Davao, Cebu, Puerto Princesa, Baguio, and Iloilo. It is high time to implement this measure nationwide as it can play a pivotal role in addressing the country's rice self-sufficiency goals.

This bill is especially important now that our country has pledged to reduce food wastage by 50%, aligning with the commitment made by 196 nations, that signed in support of Target 16 under the Convention on Biological Diversity of the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework, which seeks to advance sustainable consumption choices through the implementation of supportive policies, legislative frameworks, and educational initiatives with the goal to achieve a substantial reduction in the global footprint of consumption by 2030, with a specific focus on halving global food waste, significantly reducing overconsumption, and minimizing waste generation. This bill could help achieve this international commitment, especially by reducing rice waste. Hence, the immediate passage of this bill is earnestly requested.


JANETTE L. GARIN, MD, MBA-H
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First District, Province of Iloilo

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AN ACT
MANDATING RESTAURANTS AND FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS
TO ALLOW SERVING HALF-CUP PORTION OF RICE

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 “Rice Waste Reduction Act of 2023.”

Section 2. Mandate. It is hereby mandated that all establishments that serve cooked rice shall include in their menu half-cup rice portion which shall always be available, with the price amounting to half as well.

Section 3. Punishable Act. It is hereby punishable if the restaurants, eateries, canteens, dining facilities, food establishments, hotels, inns, and the like will refuse to serve half-cup serving of rice.

Section 4. Penalties. Any food establishment violating this Act shall be meted a fine in the amount of Ten Thousand Pesos (P10,000) for the first offense; Twenty Thousand Pesos (P20,000) and Thirty Thousand Pesos (P30,000) for the third offense.

Section 5. Rules and Regulations. The Department of Agriculture is mandated to release the rules and regulations of this Act and necessary orders for the proper implementation of this Act.

Section 6. Repealing Clause. All laws, executive orders, issuances, rules and regulations inconsistent with this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 7. Effectivity Clause. This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in any newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,