

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **1711**



Introduced by **Rep. ANGELO MARCOS BARBA**
2nd District, Ilocos Norte

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The primary goal of this proposed measure is to address the pressing issue of food security and significant hurdles in storing perishable goods such as fruits and vegetables.

The limited shelf life of vegetables, coupled with issues like pests and diseases adversely affect both production and quality of the vegetable industry.

In order to ensure a stable market and sustainable food security, it is imperative to establish cold food storage infrastructure in every province.

The Department of Agriculture (DA), in collaboration with Local Government Units (LGUs), shall identify, evaluate, and create a roadmap for the implementation of cold storage infrastructure. Furthermore, the state shall provide incentives to private and local entities involved in this endeavor.

If enacted into law, this has a potential to enhance profits for the farmers and create a reliable market especially for the consumers. Such infrastructure can address inflation, smuggling, and market unpredictability.

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


ANGELO MARCOS BARBA

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING FOOD SECURITY COLD STORAGE
FACILITIES IN EVERY PROVINCE OF THE COUNTRY AND
APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1. Short Title. – This Act shall be known as the “*Food Security Cold Storage Facilities Act.*”

SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy. – The State acknowledges the critical role of food security in safeguarding the welfare of its citizens and recognizes that cold storage facilities play a pivotal role in minimizing food wastage and upholding food security standards.

Furthermore, the State acknowledges that the establishment of cold storage facilities in every province can enhance the sustainable food supply chain and bolster local farmers’ support.

The State shall likewise actively promote the utilization of cold storage facilities by farmers and food processors to guarantee the preservation, thus securing the well-being of the people.

SECTION 3. Establishment of Food Security Cold Storage Facilities in Every Province. – There shall be a food security cold storage facility center established in every province in the country to ensure the preservation and safety of perishable goods, such as crops, fruits, and vegetables, and likewise improve food security. Existing structures that would meet the minimum requirements or could be upgraded to effectively serve as cold storage facilities shall be designated as such in compliance with the local government units (LGUs) concerned.

SECTION 4. Implementing Agency. – The Department of Agriculture (DA) shall work with the LGUs to establish cold storage facilities in every province of the country. The facility shall be established in a manner that will ensure their accessibility to farmers and food processors in the area.

The DA shall identify the roadmap for establishment, management, and operation of cold storage facilities. It shall coordinate closely with the heads of provincial agricultural offices to ensure seamless implementation and effective collaboration throughout the process.

SECTION 5. *Incentives.* – The State shall provide incentives to private entities and LGUs that will establish and operate cold storage facilities in accordance with this provision. The incentives may include tax exemptions, subsidies, and other forms of financial support pertinent to such establishment.

SECTION 6. *Operationalization and Management.* – The LGUs shall be responsible for the operationalization of the cold storage facilities in their respective provinces. The DA shall provide the necessary technical and financial assistance to ensure the effective operation of the facilities.

SECTION 7. *Incentives.* – The State shall provide incentives to private entities and LGUs that will establish and operate cold storage facilities in accordance with this provision. The incentives include, but are not limited to, tax exemptions, subsidies, and other forms of financial support.

SECTION 8. *Monitoring and Evaluation.* – The DA shall monitor and evaluate the performance of the cold storage facilities and shall take necessary measures to ensure their effectiveness in improving food security and reducing food waste.

SECTION 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DA shall, in consultation with LGUs, and other concerned government and private agencies, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SECTION 10. *Appropriations.* – The amount necessary for the initial implementation to fund the construction and maintenance of food security cold storage facilities shall be charged under the DA. Thereafter, such amounts necessary for the construction of food security cold storage facilities shall be included in the General Appropriations Act. The LGU concerned shall then provide for the continued maintenance, operation, and management of the facility.

SECTION 11. *Non-Impairment Clause.* – Nothing in this Act shall be construed as to diminish, impair, or repeal rights recognized, granted, or made available to disadvantaged, marginalized, or specific sectors under existing laws.

SECTION 12. *Separability Clause.* – In case any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional, the other provisions shall remain in effect.

SECTION 13. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, orders, rules and regulations, or parts thereof, inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SECTION 14. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the *Official Gazette* or in at least two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,