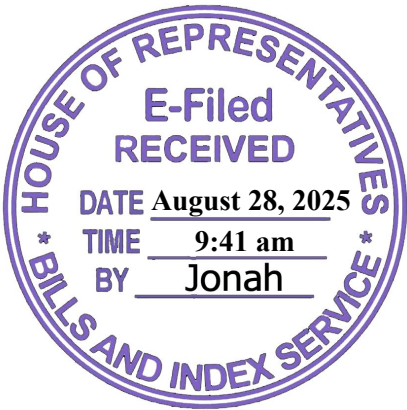


TWENTIETH CONGRESS OF THE)
REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES)
First Regular Session)

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
HOUSE BILL No. 4141



Introduced by REPRESENTATIVES LANI MERCADO-REVILLA,
BRYAN B. REVILLA and RAMON JOLO B. REVILLA III

AN ACT
REQUIRING ALL FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS TO INCLUDE HALF-CUP SERVINGS
OF RICE AS A MENU OPTION, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATION
THEREOF

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The concerning statistic of food-hungry Filipino households (1) impels us to look into all possible sources and reasons for food wastage, an irony that slaps us in the face as a nation. Though we were once the region's biggest rice producer, the sad turnaround into the world's biggest rice importer in 2023, overtaking even China (2) further underscores the importance of minimizing if not totally eliminating food waste.

According to the Philippine Rice Research Institute, an estimated P7.2 billion worth of rice is wasted in the Philippines in a year. According to Bernadette Reyes' report on "24 Oras", each consumer in the country wastes at least two tablespoons of rice a day and the wastage can feed over two million annually.(3)

In many households, rice wastage happens even if the family members are free to determine/get their portion. In restaurants and similar establishments, some customers do not finish their rice servings whether or not intentionally, and it is a travesty to see this thrown in trash due to lack of national redirection efforts and policy. Further, children and individuals with meager appetites are unable to finish a whole cup of rice in their meals, likewise leading to wastage.

While some establishments already offer a half-cup serving as an option, many do not. This bill thus requires all food establishments to offer the half-cup serving as an option in their menu, with the corresponding and reasonable price, to give each only what they can finish, and thus reduce the occurrence of food wastage.

This measure is long overdue and much needed, and for this reason its passage is urgently sought.

(1) According to PSA, there were approximately 740,000 food-poor Filipino families
(2) <https://www.esquiremag.ph/long-reads/features/why-philippines-is-worlds-top-rice-importer-a2556-20240703-lfrm>

(3) <https://www.gmanetwork.com/news/money/economy/866761/philrice-p7-2-billion-worth-of-rice-in-ph-goes-to-waste-in-a-year/story/>



REP. LANI MERCADO - REVILLA , MSLG, DM (hc)
Representative
2nd District of Cavite



REP. BRYAN B. REVILLA
Representative
AGIMAT Partylist



REP. RAMON JOLO REVILLA III
Representative
1st District of Cavite

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THEREOF

*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 "Anti-Rice Wastage
Act."

SEC. 2. Definition of Terms. - For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall
be defined as below:

- (a) Food establishments - shall refer to establishments that prepare and sell food
directly to consumers for immediate food consumption, whether indoor or
outdoor, such as restaurants, commissaries, cafeterias, cafes, fast food
establishments, food courts, and other similar establishments;
- (b) Half-cup rice - shall refer to a serving of approximately 100 grams of cooked
rice

SEC. 3. Requiring Food Establishments to Include Half-cup Servings of Rice in
their Menu Option. - All food establishments are hereby required to include a half-cup
serving of rice as an option in their menus.

SEC. 4. Penalties. - Any food establishment found violating this Act shall be
meted fines as follows: FIVE THOUSAND PESOS (PhP5,000.00) for the first offense;
TEN THOUSAND PESOS (PhP10,000.00) for the second offense; and TWENTY
THOUSAND PESOS (PhP20,000.00) for the third and succeeding offense. On the third
and succeeding offenses, the license to operate shall be suspended for a period not
exceeding thirty (30) days.

SEC. 5. Implementing Rules and Regulations. - The Department of Trade and
Industry (DTI) shall, in consultation with the concerned government agencies and
stakeholders, promulgate the implementing rules and regulations of this Act within sixty
(60) days from its effectivity.

SEC. 6. Repealing Clause. - All laws, decrees, executive orders, issuances, or
parts thereof that are inconsistent with this Act are hereby repealed accordingly.

SEC. 7. Effectivity. - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in two (2) newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,