

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 4525



Introduced by: Rep. Keith Micah "Atty. Mike" D.L. Tan and
Rep. Iris Marie D. Montes

AN ACT
REQUIRING ALL FOOD ESTABLISHMENTS TO PROVIDE ONE-HALF CUP OF RICE
SERVING AS A MENU OPTION, AND PROVIDING PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS
THEREOF

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Rice is the staple food of the Filipinos. However, research shows that Filipino households waste rice the most. Data from the National Nutrition Council show that the average plate waste in a Filipino household per day typically amounts to 53 grams of rice and rice products.¹

According to the International Rice Research Institute (IRRI), with "94 million and 9 grams of wasted rice per day, the total wastage is 308,000 tons, 36 percent of 2011 rice imports. The said rice wastage translates to at least US\$535,000 (23 million pesos) every day or \$223 million a year, an amount sufficient to feed 4.3 million people."²

The Philippines is an agricultural country. Ironically, the country is also the world's biggest importer of rice for several years. To date, the government is implementing various programs to attain rice self-sufficiency which remains an elusive goal.

It was reported that Agriculture Secretary Francisco P. Tiu Laurel, Jr. has called for renewed action to curb rice wastage in the Philippines as current levels could feed 2.8 million Filipinos annually. This call is in spite of data from the Philippine Rice Research Institute (PhilRice) that show household rice wastage decreased to 255,000 metric tons in 2019, down from 340,000 metric tons in 2009.³

¹ <https://www.facebook.com/nncofficial/posts/think-twice-before-wasting-rice-did-you-know-that-the-average-plate-waste-in-a-f/1067476468743104/> Accessed on 09 September 2025

² Rice wastage equalled a third of PHL rice imports in 2011-IRRI, GMA News Online, April 19, 2012

³ DA chief pushes 'half-cup rice' plan as rice waste could feed millions (https://www.da.gov.ph/da-chief-pushes-half-cup-rice-plan-as-rice-waste-could-feed-millions/) Accessed on 09 September 2025

In this light, this bill, which was originally filed by President Ferdinand R. Marcos Jr. when he was a senator during the 16th Congress and which was subsequently sponsored by then Congresswoman Angelina "Helen" Tan of the 4th District of Quezon during the 17th Congress, seeks to penalize the practice of some food establishments of refusing to serve order of rice from a customer if it be less than one (1) cup.

It is hoped that this measure will considerably reduce rice wastage and promote food security in the country.

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


KEITH MICAH "ATTY. MIKE" D.L. TAN
4th District, Quezon


IRIS MARIE D. MONTES
Kababaihan Kabalikatan para sa Kapakanan
at Kaunlaran ng Bayan (4K) Party-list

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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 "Anti-Rice Wastage Act."

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

- (a) "Food establishments" shall refer to establishments that prepare and sell food directly to consumers for immediate consumption, whether indoor or outdoor, such as restaurants, commissaries, cafeterias, cafes, lunchrooms, bistros, fast food establishments, food courts, buffets, eateries, retail bakeries, mobile food trucks, and dining areas in accommodation establishments; and
- (b) "Half-cup rice" shall refer to a one hundred (100) grams of cooked rice serving option in the menu of a food establishment.

SEC. 3. *Requiring Food Establishments to Provide One-Half Cup of Rice Serving as a Menu Option.* - Pursuant to the goal of preventing rice wastage and promoting the nutritional well-being of the Filipino people, all food establishments are required to provide one-half cup of rice serving as a menu option. The price of a one-half cup of rice shall be set at half of the one-cup order.

SEC. 4. *Penalties.* - Any food establishment found violating this Act shall be fined 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) and suspension of license or permit to operate for a period of not less than thirty (30) days for the third offence and subsequent offenses.

SEC. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* - The Department of Trade and Industry 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, proclamations, and administrative regulations, or parts thereof inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

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

Approved,