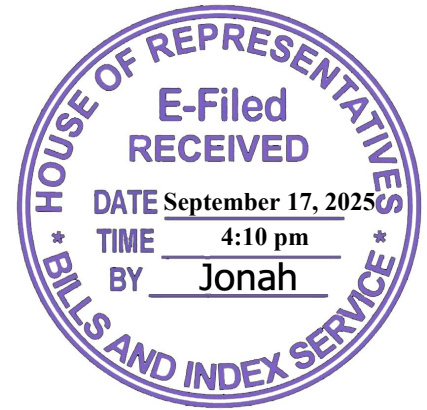


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
1st Regular Session

House Bill No. 4657



Introduced by Representative ERIC G. YAP

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The State recognizes the vital role of farmers in ensuring national food security and in sustaining the agricultural economy of the country. It is enshrined in the Constitution that the State shall promote social justice in all phases of national development and afford protection to labor, including those working in agriculture. Despite their indispensable contribution, local farmers remain among the most disadvantaged sectors, and their produce is often undervalued or left unsold due to a lack of direct market access and institutional support.

As the Representative of the lone district of Benguet—a province widely regarded as the "Salad Bowl of the Philippines" and whose economy is heavily reliant on agriculture—it is a matter of concern to witness the disconnect between local agricultural productivity and its utilization by institutional consumers. Local produce often fails to reach viable markets, not due to lack of quality or supply, but due to insufficient policy mechanisms linking farmers to consistent and large-scale buyers.

This bill seeks to address that gap by institutionalizing a policy that mandates government institutions and food service establishments, including but not limited to hotels, restaurants, and catering services, to prioritize the procurement of agricultural produce sourced from local farmers within their respective local government units. Such a policy not only promotes the use of fresher, in-season produce but also reduces logistics costs and adopts a more localized and resilient food system, while gaining advantage by way of exploiting economies of scale.

While this measure affirms support for local agricultural development, it does not prohibit access to or trade with other sources, whether domestic or foreign. Rather, it strengthens local value chains and allows government institutions and commercial establishments to contribute to food sustainability, reduce carbon footprint from long-distance transport, and stimulate rural economies.

Furthermore, the proposed measure ensures that food service providers benefit from access to high-quality local produce, while consumers increasingly favor

establishments that support ethical sourcing and environmental responsibility. The bill also includes necessary safeguards by providing clear exceptions in cases where local produce is insufficient, unfit, impractical, or inferior in quality, ensuring the flexibility and practicality of implementation. In summary, this measure provides a framework that simultaneously supports the welfare of farmers, enhances food service operations, and strengthens local economies.

In view of the foregoing, consideration of the passage of this bill is respectfully urged.



HON. ERIC G. YAP

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Metro Manila

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
1st Regular Session

House Bill No. **4657**

Introduced by Representative ERIC G. YAP

**AN ACT MANDATING GOVERNMENT INSTITUTIONS AND FOOD
SERVICE ESTABLISHMENTS TO PURCHASE THE AGRICULTURAL
PRODUCE OF LOCAL FARMERS OR PRODUCERS FOR THEIR FOOD
PREPARATION AND PRODUCTION**

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 "Marketing and Utilization of Local Agricultural Produce Act of 2025."

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared as a policy of the State, consistent with the constitutional provisions on social justice and the fundamental principles on food security, to ensure local food production. As such, priority must be accorded to the produce of local farmers and producers in terms of the purchases of government institutions and food service establishments intended for food preparation and production.

SEC. 3. *Mandatory Purchase.* - Government Institutions and Food Service Establishments, such as hotels, restaurants, and catering services, shall prioritize the purchase of local agricultural produce from local farmers for their food preparation and production.

Moreover, the produce of local farmers within the territorial jurisdiction of the local government unit (LGU) wherein the government institution and food service establishment is located shall take precedence over other produce outside their respective LGUs to lower transportation or other hauling costs in the delivery of such produce.

Nothing in this Act shall be construed as prohibiting the government institutions and food service establishments from purchasing local produce in different political subdivisions, provided that the requirement herein set forth is complied with by the food service establishments.

SEC. 4. *Exceptions.* - Section 2 of this Act shall not be applicable in any of the following cases where the local produce is:

- a. No longer fit for human consumption;
- b. Insufficient in quantity;
- c. More costly and impractical compared to imported or foreign sources of produce, after a careful and thorough juxtaposition between local and foreign produce;
- d. Inferior in quality.

SEC. 5. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* For the effective implementation of this Act, the Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG) together with the Department of Agriculture (DA), Department of Trade and Industry (DTI), Department of Agrarian Reform (DAR), and Department of Health (DOH) shall within ninety (90) days from the effectivity of this Act promulgate the implementing rules and regulations.

SEC. 6. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act shall be declared unconstitutional or invalid, such declaration shall not invalidate other parts thereof which shall remain in full force and effect.

SEC. 7. *Repealing Clause.* - All laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations or parts thereof which are inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby amended, repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 8. *Effectivity.* This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in any newspaper of general application.

Approved,