

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



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Introduced by Representative Rufus B. Rodriguez and
Representative Maximo B. Rodriguez, Jr.*

House Bill No. **4725**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Many countries have in place existing laws to combat food waste which shows their commitment to sustainable development goals, especially SDG 12 on Responsible Consumption and Production.

In the Philippines, food waste is a significant issue even with millions of Filipinos experiencing hunger and malnutrition. An estimated 2.6 million tons of food is wasted each year, amounting to billions of pesos in losses, and contributing to environmental degradation through increased greenhouse gas emissions, particularly methane, from decomposing food in landfills.

This proposed bill seeks to establish a legal framework that reduces food waste across the country, promotes the redistribution of edible surplus food, and fosters a culture of responsible food consumption.

Aside from reducing food waste, this bill seeks to encourage food donation, promote awareness and education about the impact of food waste, and strengthen waste management practices.

It is hoped that this bill would be a valuable tool in the Philippines' fight against hunger, environmental degradation, and economic inefficiency. It would reduce waste, benefit communities in need, and foster a more sustainable, circular food economy.

In view of the foregoing, immediate approval of this measure is earnestly requested.


RUFUS B. RODRIGUEZ


MAXIMO B. RODRIGUEZ, JR.

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING A COMPREHENSIVE FOOD WASTE REDUCTION AND
REDISTRIBUTION PROGRAM, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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 “Food Waste Reduction and Redistribution Act”.

Section 2. Declaration of Policy – It is the policy of the State to:

1. Promote food security and reduce hunger in the Philippines by facilitating the redistribution of surplus food.
2. Protect the environment by reducing the amount of edible food waste sent to landfills, thereby reducing carbon emissions and promoting sustainability.
3. Encourage public and private entities to adopt responsible practices regarding food waste.
4. Enhance awareness and education among the public on food waste reduction and sustainable consumption.

Section 3. Definition of Terms – For purposes of this Act, the following terms shall be defined as:

1. Food Waste – Any edible food that is discarded, whether in whole or in part, by producers, retailers, wholesalers, restaurants, or consumers, and is no longer fit for consumption due to improper storage, packaging, or surplus production.
2. Edible Surplus Food – Food that is still safe for consumption but is not sold, consumed, or utilized in its entirety due to overproduction, near expiry, or other factors.
3. Food Recovery – The process of collecting edible food from businesses, markets, or households and redistributing it to organizations or communities in need.
4. Food Redistribution Organizations – Non-profit organizations, charities, food banks, and similar entities that collect and distribute food to people facing food insecurity.
5. Commercial Establishments – Any business involved in the sale of food, including but not limited to restaurants, supermarkets, wholesalers, and food producers.
6. Food Waste Audits – The process of assessing the quantity and types of food waste generated by businesses and institutions to identify areas for improvement.

Section 4. Obligations of Commercial Establishments

A. Food Waste Reporting and Audits:

- a. All commercial establishments involved in food production, distribution, or retail, including restaurants, supermarkets, food wholesalers, and manufacturers, shall conduct annual food waste audits.

- b. Establishments must submit a report to the Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR) and the Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) on the amount and type of food waste generated, as well as efforts taken to reduce waste.

B. Food Donation Requirement

- a. All commercial establishments with surplus edible food that has not reached expiration or is still safe for consumption shall donate it to recognized Food Redistribution Organizations;
- b. Donations shall be made in accordance with safety and health standards as prescribed by the Food and Drug Administration (FDA) and the Department of Health (DOH);
- c. The government shall create a Food Donation Database to facilitate matching surplus food with local redistribution groups and institutions.

C. Reduction Targets

- a. By the end of the third year of implementation, businesses must reduce food waste by at least 30% compared to their baseline year through improved inventory management, proper storage practices, and waste reduction techniques.
- b. By the end of the fifth year, this target shall be increased to 50%.

Section 5. Protection from Liability – Commercial establishments, producers, and other food donors shall not be held liable for any harm resulting from the consumption of donated food, provided the food is safe for consumption at the time of donation and is donated in good faith.

The government shall provide a certification process for donated food to ensure it complies with health standards and is safe for redistribution.

Section 6. Tax Incentives for Donors – Food donors who comply with the provisions of this Act shall receive tax credits or deductions equivalent to the value of the food donated, in accordance with existing tax laws.

A special fund shall be established to incentivize food donations and assist Food Redistribution Organizations with logistics and operations.

Section 7. National Food Waste Reduction Program – The government, through the Department of Agriculture (DA), the DENR, and the DSWD, shall conduct nationwide awareness campaigns on the importance of reducing food waste, encouraging responsible consumption, and supporting food redistribution.

The campaign will target schools, universities, businesses, and households, utilizing media, social platforms, and public outreach programs.

The government shall support research into food waste prevention technologies and systems that can be adopted by businesses and households to reduce waste and increase efficiency in food supply chains.

Section 8. Food Waste Reduction in Government Facilities – All government offices, including those in local government units (LGUs), shall implement food waste reduction programs, including reducing food waste in government-run canteens and kitchens.

Food waste generated in government facilities shall be minimized, separated, and sent to appropriate redistribution channels or composting facilities.

Section 9. Role of Local Government Units (LGUs) – Each LGU shall create and implement a Local Food Waste Reduction and Redistribution Plan, which includes supporting local food banks, partnering with businesses for food recovery, and promoting food waste awareness in communities.

LGUs shall incentivize local businesses to participate in food donation and waste

reduction programs.

Section 10. Implementation and Enforcement – The DENR, in partnership with the DSWD and the DA, shall establish a Food Waste Reduction Office (FWRO) tasked with monitoring compliance, overseeing food recovery efforts, and promoting best practices in food waste reduction across sectors.

The FWRO shall also maintain the National Food Donation Database.

Section 11. Compliance and Penalties a. Any commercial establishment found in violation of the donation and waste reduction provisions of this Act shall be subject to fines and penalties, including:

- a. fine not exceeding Php 100,000 for the first offense;
- b. fine of Php 200,000 for the second offense and possible suspension of business permits.

Repeated violations may result in revocation of business permits and other legal actions.

Section 12. Appropriations – The amount necessary for the implementation of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

Section 13. Separability Clause – If any provision of this Act is declared unconstitutional or invalid, the other provisions not affected thereby shall remain in full force and effect.

Section 14. Repealing Clause – All laws, decrees, orders, or regulations inconsistent with the provisions of this Act are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

Section 15. 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,