

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



HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE BILL NO. 5124

Introduced by Rep. CARMELO G. LAZATIN, JR.

AN ACT

**MANDATING THE ESTABLISHMENT OF COLD STORAGE FACILITIES IN
EVERY PROVINCE AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Attaining food security remains a significant challenge in the Philippines. According to a brief by the World Food Programme (WFP), based on a remote survey conducted in October 2022, one (1) out of ten (10) households in the Philippines is food insecure. The same report noted households dependent on agricultural livelihoods are even more vulnerable also significantly more food insecurity.

Food waste in the Philippines is also a pressing concern. The United Nations Environment Programme's (UNEP) 2024 Food Waste Index Report revealed that Philippine household food waste amounts to 2.9 million tons annually, or 26 kilograms per capita. The report further found that countries with higher temperatures generate more food waste per capita. .

These findings underscore the urgent need for cold storage facilities to preserve and extend the shelf life of agricultural products such as fruits, vegetables, and high-value crops, meats and seafoods. The Department of Agriculture already announced plans to construct approximately ninety-nine (99) cold storage facilities in 2025 to help ensure food security and price stability.

This proposed bill seeks to support and institutionalize these efforts to ensure food security and stabilize the prices of basic commodities. If enacted, it will provide farmers and fisherfolk

with better opportunities to improve their incomes, enable consumers to access quality food at reasonable prices, and address market unpredictability.

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

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Carmelo Lazatin, Jr." in a cursive script.

CARMELO G. LAZATIN, JR.



Republic of the Philippines
House of Representatives
Quezon City, Metro Manila

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

1 **SECTION 1.** *Short Title*-This Act shall be known as the “*Establishment of Cold Storage*
2 *Facilities Act*”
3

4 **SECTION 2.** *Declaration of Policy*- The State recognizes food security as an integral
5 component in promoting the welfare of its citizens and in ensuring market price stability. It
6 acknowledges the need for the establishment of cold storage facilities especially in agricultural
7 areas to minimize food wastage and aid in the preservation of agricultural products.

8 The State also promotes the utilization of cold storage facilities not only by farmers but
9 also by food processors to ensure that quality food products are distributed in the market.

10 **SECTION 3.** *Establishment of Cold Storage Facilities in Every Province*- There shall be
11 cold storage facilities established in every province to ensure the preservation of agricultural
12 products and perishable food such as fruits, vegetables, and high value crops, as well as processed
13 meat products.

Existing Cold Storage facilities may be upgraded by the concerned Local Government Unit to ensure that they operate in accordance with prescribed standards.

SECTION 4. *Implementing Agency* – The Department of Agriculture shall coordinate with the Local Government Units for the establishment of cold storage facilities in every province.

It shall identify the location of the cold storage facilities to ensure that they are accessible to farmers and food processors. The Provincial Agricultural Offices shall oversee the management and operations of these facilities in collaboration with the local government units.

SECTION 5. *Operationalization and Management*- the Department of Agriculture shall provide technical and financial assistance to the Local Government Units. The Local Government Units, on the other hand, shall be responsible for the operationalization of the cold storage facilities within their respective jurisdictions.

SECTION 6. *Monitoring and Evaluation* – The Department of Agriculture shall be responsible for monitoring and evaluating the performance of the cold storage facilities to gauge their impact on bolstering food security and reducing food wastage.

SECTION 7. *Implementing Rules and Regulations*- Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the Department of Agriculture shall coordinate with the Local Government Units, concerned government agencies and stakeholders and promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to implement this Act.

SECTION 8. *Appropriations*. – The amount necessary for the initial implementation and to fund the construction of cold storage facilities in every province shall be charged to the Department of Agriculture. Thereafter, the funds necessary for the construction of cold storage facilities shall be included in the General Appropriations Act. The local government units concerned shall provide funds for the maintenance, operation and management of the established cold storage facilities.

SECTION 8. *Separability Clause*. - If any part or provision of this Act is declared invalid or unconstitutional, the other parts or provisions not affected thereby shall remain valid.

SECTION 9. *Repealing Clause*- All laws, acts, presidential decrees, executive orders, administrative orders, rules and regulations inconsistent with or contrary to the provisions of this Act are hereby deemed amended, modified or repealed accordingly.

SECTION 10. *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,