

Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City, Philippines

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

House Bill No. **5707**



Introduced by **HON. NICANOR M. BRIONES**
Representative, AGAP Party List

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Given the challenges in achieving food security in the country, one of the notable challenges faced by the agriculture sector is the lack of cold storage facilities that could accommodate excess harvest of local farmers. This problem could have been resolved if only there are adequate post-harvest and cold storage facilities available and accessible to farmers. However, based on the submitted list of licensed cold storage warehouses in the country for 2023 by the Bureau of Plant Industry to the House Committee on Agriculture and Food, the distribution of cold storage facilities in provinces are not proportional and, thus, inadequate. An onion farmer from Mindoro voiced out during the Senate hearing on onion importation that there is only one cold storage facility in their province. Worse, some cold storage facilities are located tens of kilometers away from the farms.

It was also reported that the space allocation on cold storage facilities are often already reserved by traders and goods are stored for an unreasonable prolonged time as a means of market supply/price manipulation. Farmers are then left with no storage space for their harvests.

The 1987 Constitution, through Article XIII Section 5, mandates the State to provide support to agriculture through appropriate technology and research, and adequate financial, production, marketing, and other support services.

This bill is therefore filed to ensure the availability of cold storage facilities for farmers in every province. Further, this bill aims to help ensure food supply by making every cold storage facility accessible, available, and exclusively allotted to legitimate farmers. Through this bill, it is hoped that farmers will be encouraged to continue cultivating our lands, food waste be reduced, prevent hoarding, and food security be achieved.

With the foregoing premises considered, the approval of this bill is earnestly sought. This is a re-filed bill from the 19th Congress.



NICANOR M. BRIONES
Representative
AGAP Partylist

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AN ACT
ESTABLISHING FOOD SECURITY COLD STORAGE FACILITY FOR
AGRICULTURAL PRODUCTS IN EVERY PROVINCE IN THE COUNTRY
AND APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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

SECTION 1 Short Title of Act. - This Act shall be known as "Agricultural Cold Storage Facility in Every Province Act of 2025".

SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy. The State recognizes the importance of food security in ensuring the well-being of its citizens. To this end, the State declares it as a policy to establish cold storage facilities in every province of the country to preserve perishable agricultural products, and improve food security. The State recognizes that cold storage facilities play a crucial role in reducing food waste, ensuring a steady supply of fresh produce, and maintaining food safety. The State further recognizes that the establishment of cold storage facilities can improve the efficiency of the food supply chain, support local farmers, and increase the availability of agricultural goods.

It is hereby declared that the State shall provide the necessary support to establish and operate cold storage facilities in every surplus-producing local government units in all provinces of the country. The State shall promote the use of cold storage facilities by farmers and food processors to ensure the preservation and safety of perishable agricultural goods and ensure the well-being of the people.

SEC. 3. Establishment of Food Security Cold Storage Facilities for Agricultural Products in Every Province. - There shall be established at least one food security cold storage facility center for agricultural products in every province in the country in order to ensure the preservation and safety of perishable agricultural products, such as crops, fruits, vegetables, and

meat and improve food security.

Existing structures that would meet the minimum requirements could be upgraded to effectively serve as food security cold storage facilities and be designated as such in compliance with rules and regulations set by the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the local government unit (LGU) concerned.

SEC. 4. *Defining Food Security Cold Storage Facilities.* – Food security cold storage facilities refer to infrastructure designed to store and preserve perishable agricultural products, such as crops, fruits, vegetables, and meat, and maintain their quality and safety. These facilities are equipped with temperature-controlled rooms, refrigeration units, and other necessary equipment to ensure that food products are stored at the right temperature and conditions. The purpose of food security cold storage facilities is to improve food security by reducing food waste and ensuring a steady supply of fresh produce. These infrastructures shall utilize renewable energy, provide water efficiency, and if possible, make use of sustainable materials.

SEC. 5. *Exclusive Cold Storage Allocation to Legitimate Farmers.* – Each food security cold storage facility that will be established and identified by the LGU under this Act shall allocate their total storage area solely to legitimate agricultural farmers, to the exclusion of traders, who shall directly coordinate with the provincial government regarding its use.

SEC. 6. *Management and Operationalization.* – The provincial government shall be primarily responsible for the accreditation, management, and operationalization of the food security cold storage facilities in their respective provinces. The DA shall provide the necessary technical and financial assistance to ensure the effective operation of the facilities.

SEC. 7. *Monitoring and Evaluation.* – The DA shall monitor and evaluate the performance of the food security cold storage facilities and shall take necessary measures to ensure their effectiveness in improving food security and reducing food waste.

SEC. 8. *Implementing Agency.* — The DA shall work with the LGUs in establishing and identifying food security cold storage facilities in every province of the country. The facilities shall be established in a manner that will ensure their accessibility to farmers in the area.

SEC. 9. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.* – Within sixty (60) days from the effectivity of this Act, the DA shall, in consultation with the Department of Interior and Local Government, and other concerned government and private agencies, promulgate the necessary rules and regulations to carry out the provisions of this Act.

SEC. 10. *Appropriation.* – The amount necessary for the initial implementation to fund the construction and maintenance of food security

cold storage facilities shall be charged under the DA. Thereafter, such amounts necessary for the construction of food security cold storage facilities shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act. The LGU concerned shall provide for the continued maintenance, operation, and management of the facility.

SEC. 11. *Non-Impairment Clause.* – Nothing in this Act shall be construed as to diminish, impair, or repeal rights recognized, granted, or made available to disadvantaged, marginalized, or specific sectors under existing laws.

SEC. 12. *Separability Clause.* – If any provision of this Act shall be held unconstitutional or invalid, the remaining provisions which are not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 13. *Repealing Clause.* – All laws, decrees, executive orders, rules and regulations, and other issuances, or parts thereof, contrary to or inconsistent with this Act are hereby modified, amended or repealed accordingly.

SEC. 14. *Effectivity.* – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

Approved,