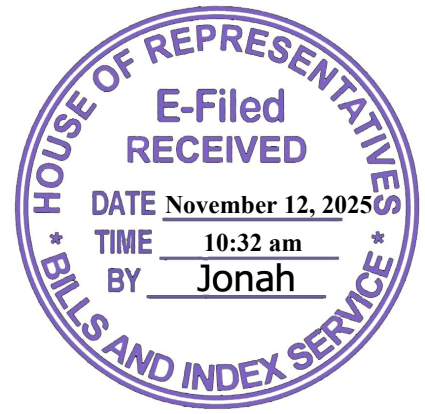


Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session

HOUSE BILL NO. 5893



Introduced by: **REP. SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.**

EXPLANATORY NOTE

Despite being an agricultural nation, the Philippines faces a persistent challenge of food insecurity, with millions of Filipinos struggling to afford or access sufficient nutritious food. Paradoxically, the country generates massive amounts of food waste. According to recent studies, a significant percentage of food produced is lost or wasted across the supply chain—from farms to retailers to consumers. This waste represents an enormous missed opportunity to feed the hungry and an unnecessary drain on economic and environmental resources.

Food waste contributes to greenhouse gas emissions (methane) in landfills and represents the squandering of water, labor, and energy used for production. The current system is linear —produce, consume, dispose— which is unsustainable.

This proposed bill, the "Zero Food Waste and Food Security Act of 2025," seeks to transform this linear system into a circular economy by institutionalizing a comprehensive national framework centered on the Food Waste Reduction Hierarchy.

The Bill's core feature is the mandatory redirection of edible Food Surplus from large Food Establishments and Retailers to accredited Food Banks. This directly addresses food insecurity by providing a stable and safe supply of food to vulnerable communities.

To encourage widespread participation, the Bill includes a "Good Samaritan Clause" that shields donors from liability, removing a significant barrier that often prevents businesses from donating surplus food.

Unavoidable food waste (e.g., peels, scraps) is mandated to be separated and recycled (composted or anaerobically digested). This reduces the volume of waste

sent to landfills, lowering methane emissions, and converting waste into valuable resources like soil conditioner and renewable energy.

The Bill provides fiscal incentives, such as enhanced tax deductions for donated food, to make participation economically beneficial for businesses.

By establishing clear mandates, providing liability protection, and offering incentives, this Act creates a regulatory environment that promotes the highest and best use of food. It is a critical step towards achieving the goals of Zero Hunger (SDG 2) and Responsible Consumption and Production (SDG 12) in the Philippines, fostering both food security and environmental sustainability. In view of the foregoing, the immediate passage of this Bill is earnestly sought.

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HOUSE BILL NO. 5893

Introduced by: **REP. SALVADOR A. PLEYTO, SR.**

AN ACT ESTABLISHING A NATIONAL FRAMEWORK FOR FOOD SURPLUS REDISTRIBUTION AND FOOD WASTE RECYCLING TO PROMOTE FOOD SECURITY AND ACHIEVE ZERO FOOD WASTE, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES

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 "Zero Food Waste and Food Security Act of 2025."

SEC. 2. *Declaration of Policy.* - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to:

- (a) Promote Food Security by ensuring access to safe, nutritious, and sufficient food for all Filipinos.
- (b) Minimize Food Waste by mandating and encouraging food establishments, retailers, and other relevant entities to implement a Food Waste Reduction Hierarchy (Source Reduction Feeding People Feeding Animals Industrial Uses Composting Landfill).
- (c) Establish a National Food Surplus Redistribution System to safely and efficiently divert edible food to accredited Food Banks and charitable institutions.
- (d) Promote Circular Economy by institutionalizing the recycling and composting of unavoidable food waste.

SEC. 3. *Definition of Terms.* - As used in this Act:

- (a) Food Surplus refers to safe, edible food that is not sold or used by a food establishment or retailer and is available for donation.
- (b) Food Waste refers to all food, raw or cooked, that is discarded, lost, or uneaten, including but not limited to inedible parts (e.g., bones, peels, shells).
- (c) Food Establishment refers to restaurants, catering services, hotels, and institutional canteens.
- (d) Food Retailer refers to supermarkets, groceries, wet markets, and convenience stores.
- (e) Food Bank refers to a non-stock, non-profit organization primarily engaged in the storage and distribution of donated food to feeding programs and charitable institutions.
- (f) Source Reduction refers to actions that prevent food from becoming surplus or waste in the first place (e.g., better inventory management, proper storage).

SEC. 4. *Food Waste Reduction Hierarchy and Mandatory Compliance.*

- (a) **Mandatory Food Donation.** Food Establishments and Food Retailers generating significant amounts of Food Surplus shall be mandated to enter into a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) with an accredited Food Bank or charitable institution for the regular donation of their surplus edible food. The Department of Social Welfare and Development (DSWD) shall accredit and monitor Food Banks.
- (b) **Mandatory Recycling/Composting.** All Food Establishments and Food Retailers shall be mandated to separate unavoidable Food Waste (non-edible) for composting, anaerobic digestion, or other appropriate recycling methods, in coordination with local government units (LGUs).

SEC. 5. *Safe Food Donation and Liability Protection.* - A Good Samaritan Clause is hereby established to protect donors of Food Surplus. A Food Establishment, Food Retailer, or individual shall not be subject to civil or criminal liability for the nature, age, condition, or packaging of donated Food Surplus, provided that the donation was made in good faith and without gross negligence or willful misconduct concerning food safety and handling standards

at the time of donation. The receiving Food Bank assumes responsibility for the subsequent handling and distribution.

SEC. 6. *Fiscal Incentives.*

- (a) Tax Deductions. Food Establishments and Food Retailers shall be entitled to an additional tax deduction from their gross income for the cost of their donated Food Surplus, subject to the rules and regulations of the Bureau of Internal Revenue (BIR).
- (b) Local Incentives. LGUs are encouraged to grant a business permit fee reductions or other local tax incentives to compliant entities.

SEC. 7. *Implementation and Enforcement.*

- (a) The Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), in coordination with the DSWD, Department of Health (DOH), and Department of the Interior and Local Government (DILG), shall be the lead agencies in the implementation and enforcement of this Act.
- (b) The DILG shall assist in ensuring that LGUs establish the necessary infrastructure for mandatory food waste separation, collection, and processing.

SEC. 8. *Penalties.* - Any Food Establishment or Food Retailer found to be in willful violation of the mandatory donation and recycling provisions of this Act shall be subject to a fine of not less than Fifty Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00) for the first offense, and escalating fines and mandatory closure for succeeding offenses, without prejudice to other applicable laws.

SEC. 9. *Appropriations.* - The amount necessary to carry out the provisions of this Act shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act.

SEC. 10. *Separability Clause.* - If any provision of this Act is held invalid or unconstitutional, the other provisions not affected thereby shall continue to be in full force and effect.

SEC. 11. *Repealing Clause* – All other laws, presidential decrees, executive orders, ordinances, rules and regulation, and other issuances or part thereof which are inconsistent with this Act, are hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

SEC. 12. *Effectivity* – This Act shall take effect after fifteen (15) days after its publication in the Official Gazette or in newspapers of general circulation.

Approved,