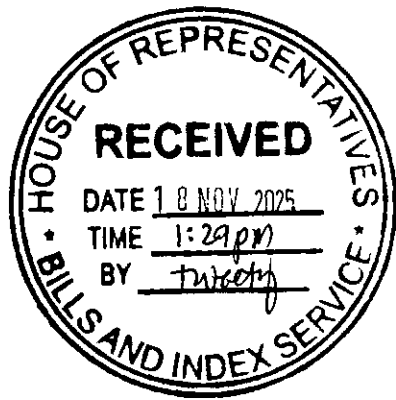




Republic of the Philippines  
**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**  
Quezon City, Metro Manila

**TWENTIETH CONGRESS**  
First Regular Session

**House Bill No. 6122**



Introduced by **Representative KATRINA REIKO CHUA - TAI**  
*1st District, Zamboanga City*

**AN ACT**  
**CREATING THE NATIONAL HEALTH CENTER FOR FOOD FACILITY AND**  
**SANITATION AS A HEALTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM UNDER THE**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH), STRENGTHENING FOOD SAFETY**  
**STANDARDS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

**EXPLANATORY NOTE**

Food safety is a critical public health concern in the Philippines. Every Filipino deserves food that is clean, safe, and responsibly prepared. Yet too many establishments fall short, causing preventable illnesses and outbreaks that harm our most vulnerable, our children, the elderly, and low-income families.

This bill aims to establish a new national standard for cleanliness and sanitation in all places where food is served. From bustling restaurants and lively markets to humble street vendors. It mandates the adoption of uniform sanitation protocols, regular and more rigorous health inspections, and strict compliance and accountability measures for food establishments. By raising the bar for sanitation, we not only safeguard public health but also boost our global reputation, attract more tourists, and empower local food businesses to deliver world-class service.

Recent data highlights the urgency of this measure. According to national and international reports, the Philippines faces millions of foodborne illness cases each year, resulting in thousands of deaths. Rising infection rates and frequent localized outbreaks, such as the four food poisoning incidents recorded in Baguio City during the 2024–2025 holiday period, underscore the need to act. The World Health Organization also notes the global scale of unsafe food’s impact.

National reporting often fails to capture the complete effects of foodborne illnesses that cause paralysis or lifelong disability. Severe food poisoning from toxins, pathogens, or tainted water can lead to lasting harm, such as neurological damage, kidney failure, chronic digestive issues, or life-threatening dehydration. The lack of comprehensive long-term data underscores the need for a stronger, more responsive food safety framework.

This bill marks a bold move to cut foodborne illnesses by at least half, fulfilling our duty to protect public health and meet global commitments. Its main provisions include instituting risk-based inspections, requiring food safety training and certification for food handlers, and

establishing mechanisms for rapid response to outbreaks. By raising sanitation standards, sharpening inspections, and tightening oversight, we can make food safer for every Filipino and help our food businesses shine on the world stage.

Above all, this measure affirms that food safety is a right for everyone. Cleanliness and good hygiene should originate in our communities, empowering families and food workers to make healthy choices even when resources are limited. With this bill, the government actively and compassionately works to prevent any Filipino from suffering from avoidable illness due to unsafe food. Be a champion for food safety. Let us join hands to support this bill and safeguard the health of every Filipino.

**IN VIEW OF THE FOREGOING, immediate passage of this bill is earnestly sought.**

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Katrina', with a stylized flourish extending from the end.

**KATRINA REIKO CHUA - TAI**



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**AN ACT**

**CREATING THE NATIONAL HEALTH CENTER FOR FOOD FACILITY AND  
SANITATION AS A HEALTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM UNDER THE  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH (DOH), STRENGTHENING FOOD SAFETY  
STANDARDS, AND FOR OTHER PURPOSES**

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

**SECTION 1. Title.** - This Act shall be known as the “National Food Facility and  
Sanitation Strengthening Act of 2025”.

**SECTION 2. Declaration of Policy.** - It is hereby declared the policy of the State to  
protect and promote the right to health of the people by ensuring access to safe, clean, and  
sanitary food. The State recognizes that access to safe and healthy food is essential for the well-  
being of every citizen and the overall development of the nation. To achieve this, the State shall  
adopt an integrated and comprehensive approach to health and food safety development,  
ensuring that policies, programs, and regulations across all relevant agencies are harmonized and  
effectively implemented.

The State shall also strengthen the implementation of Republic Act No. 10611, otherwise  
known as the Food Safety Act of 2013, by enhancing the capacity of regulatory agencies and  
food establishments to maintain high standards of food safety and sanitation.

Furthermore, the State shall ensure improved coordination, monitoring, and regulation of  
food establishments and food handlers, while building their technical capacity to comply with  
national food safety standards. In support of these goals, the State shall undertake initiatives in  
health manpower development, research, and programs that are responsive to the country’s food  
safety needs.

**SECTION 3. Creation of the National Health Center for Food Facility and Sanitation  
(NHCFFS).** - There is hereby created under the Department of Health (DOH) the National  
Health Center for Food Facility and Sanitation (NHCFFS), hereinafter referred to as the  
“Center”, which shall serve as the lead national authority on:

1. Food facility sanitation standards;
2. Food safety compliance and monitoring;

3. Training and certification of food handlers;
4. Research and policy development;
5. Sanitary inspections and laboratory analysis; and
6. National emergency response to foodborne illness outbreaks.

The Center shall complement and strengthen the food safety mandates of existing agencies under RA 10611, particularly DOH, DA, DILG, FDA, and LGUs.

**SECTION 4. Definition of Terms.** - For the purposes of this Act, the following terms are defined as follows:

**“Cleanliness”** shall refer to the condition of being clean and free from any contaminants.

**“Facility”** shall refer to the permanent, semi-permanent, or temporary commercial or industrial property.

**“National Health Center for Food Facility and Sanitation (NHCFFS)”** shall hereinafter referred to as the “Center.”

**“Sanitation”** shall refer to the formulation and application of measures designed to protect public health.

**“Food Establishment”** shall refer to any commercial or public facility engaged in food processing, preparation, distribution, or sale, including food stalls, food street vendors, and home-operated food businesses.

**SECTION 5. Mandate of the NHCFFS.** - The Center shall be the primary policy, planning, coordinating, implementing, and administrative entity of the DOH responsible for promoting, developing, and overseeing the cleanliness, orderliness, and sanitation of all food establishments nationwide. The Center shall:

1. Develop policies to serve as the basis for the grant of sanitary permits issued by LGUs;
2. Conduct inspections for cleanliness and sanitation;
3. Certify food establishments that comply with national standards;
4. Maintain and publicly share a database of establishments that pass sanitation standards;
5. Foster health and food safety as instruments for nation-building and global competitiveness; and
6. Encourage sanitation and cleanliness as core operational policies in all food establishments.

**SECTION 6. Powers and Functions of the NHCFFS.** - The Center shall have the following powers:

1. Develop and update national sanitation standards for all food establishments;
2. Conduct regular inspections in coordination with DOH, FDA, and LGUs;
3. Issue compliance ratings and a National Food Facility Sanitation Seal;
4. Establish a National Food Safety Training and Certification Program for food handlers;
5. Create a unified national database of food establishments, inspection results, sanitary permits, and violations;
6. Conduct laboratory testing for contaminants, pathogens, and hazardous substances;

- 1 7. Develop programs for small food businesses, including technical assistance and  
2 financial support; and  
3 8. Coordinate with LGUs to strengthen local enforcement and standardize sanitary  
4 practices.

5 **SECTION 7. *Mandatory Sanitation Rating System.*** - All food establishments shall  
6 display a public sanitation rating issued by the NHCFS or LGU health office under NHCFS  
7 standards. Ratings shall be standardized nationwide and updated annually.

8 **SECTION 8. *Strengthening LGU Capacity.*** - The Center shall assist LGUs by:

- 9 1. Training and certifying sanitary inspectors;  
10 2. Upgrading local laboratory and inspection equipment;  
11 3. Developing local food safety ordinances aligned with RA 10611;  
12 4. Standardizing sanitary practices in wet markets, public eateries, and ambulant  
13 vendors; and  
14 5. Allocating funds for these purposes through the DOH.

15 **SECTION 9. *Mandatory Training and Certification of Food Handlers.*** - All food  
16 handlers and employees of food establishments shall undergo mandatory training and  
17 certification every three (3) years under the NHCFS program. Failure to comply shall constitute  
18 grounds for non-renewal of permits.

19 **SECTION 10. *Composition of the Board of Trustees.*** - The Center shall be governed by  
20 a Board of Trustees, composed of A Chairman and ten (10) members, appointed by the President  
21 of the Philippines. The Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the Center, appointed from among the  
22 Board members, who shall serve as ex-officio Vice-Chairman.

23 Members shall serve three (3) years, with hold-over until successors are appointed. The  
24 President may remove any member for cause. Vacancies shall be filled for the unexpired term of  
25 the replaced member.

26 **SECTION 11. *Powers and Functions of the Board.*** - The Board shall:

- 27 1. Formulate policies, guidelines, and programs to implement this Act;  
28 2. Prescribe, review, and adjust fees for services;  
29 3. Control the management, operation, and administration of the Center;  
30 4. Authorize necessary expenditures;  
31 5. Determine organizational structure and staffing;  
32 6. Approve compensation, allowances, bonuses, and incentives;  
33 7. Adopt annual and supplemental budgets;  
34 8. Appoint, remove, suspend, or discipline senior officers; and  
35 9. Exercise general powers necessary to attain the objectives of the Center.

36 **SECTION 12. *Periodic Performance.*** - The Center shall render an annual report on its  
37 operations and accomplishments to the President of the Philippines.

38 **SECTION 13. *Implementing Rules and Regulations.*** - The DOH shall issue necessary  
39 rules and regulations within ninety (90) days from the approval of this Act to ensure effective  
40 implementation.

1           **SECTION 14. *Transitory Provision.*** - Within three (3) months from the approval of  
2 this Act, the Secretary of Health shall determine the Center's organizational structure,  
3 including the creation of new divisions or units. Staffing and structure shall be approved by  
4 the Department of Budget and Management and governed by the Civil Service Commission.

5           **SECTION 15. *Separability Clause.*** - If any provision of this Act is declared  
6 unconstitutional, the remainder shall continue to be in full force and effect.

7           **SECTION 16. *Repealing Clause.*** - All laws inconsistent with this Act are hereby  
8 amended or repealed accordingly.

9           **SECTION 17. *Effectivity.*** - This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its  
10 publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.

11           **Approved,**