



Republic of the Philippines
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Quezon City

TWENTIETH CONGRESS
First Regular Session



House Bill No. 7174

Introduced by CIBAC Party-List Representative
EDUARDO “BRO. EDDIE” C. VILLANUEVA

EXPLANATORY NOTE

The Constitution guarantees the right of the people to health and obligates the State to protect consumers from hazards to health and safety. In line with this mandate, the State must address preventable risk factors that significantly contribute to non-communicable diseases, which remain among the leading causes of death in the Philippines.

Trans-fatty acids (TFAs), particularly those produced industrially through partial hydrogenation of oils, are scientifically linked to increased risk of cardiovascular diseases, stroke, diabetes, and other life-threatening conditions. Unlike other dietary risk factors, industrially-produced TFAs offer no known health benefits and can be eliminated from the food supply without adverse effects on food security, cost, or quality when appropriate alternatives are used.

Globally, there is a growing consensus to eliminate industrial TFAs from the food supply. The World Health Organization has identified the removal of industrial TFAs as a cost-effective public health intervention, and many countries have already adopted regulatory measures banning partially hydrogenated oils and limiting TFA content in food products. However, in the Philippines, the absence of a comprehensive legal framework has allowed continued exposure to harmful TFAs, particularly through processed, prepackaged, and food service products.

This bill seeks to protect Filipinos from the harmful effects of trans-fatty acids by progressively eliminating industrially-produced TFAs from the food supply. It does so by prohibiting the manufacture, importation, distribution, and sale of partially hydrogenated oils and food products exceeding safe limits of TFA content, while excluding naturally occurring TFAs from ruminant sources in accordance with international standards.

The measure strengthens regulatory oversight by empowering the Food and Drug Authority to enforce compliance through product registration controls, inspections, penalties, and recalls. It likewise addresses implementation challenges

by providing for capacity-building of local government units, enhancement of laboratory testing capabilities, and creation of necessary plantilla positions.

Recognizing the need for a just and feasible transition, the bill provides a reasonable compliance period, technical assistance, research and development support, and incentives for micro, small, and medium enterprises. It also promotes the development of healthy alternative oils through coordinated research, crop diversification, and product reformulation initiatives involving the DOST, DA, DOH, and other relevant agencies.

Further, the bill mandates sustained public education campaigns to raise awareness on the dangers of trans-fatty acids and promote healthier dietary practices, ensuring that consumer protection is matched with informed consumer choice.

By institutionalizing a science-based and balanced approach to eliminating industrial trans-fatty acids, this measure aims to reduce preventable disease, lower long-term healthcare costs, and promote a healthier population without compromising economic activity or food accessibility.

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


EDUARDO "BRO. EDDIE" C. VILLANUEVA



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AN ACT
TO PROTECT FILIPINOS FROM THE HARMFUL EFFECTS OF TRANS-FATTY
ACIDS, APPROPRIATING FUNDS THEREFOR

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 "*Trans-Fat Free*
2 *Philippines Act.*"

3
4 **SEC. 2. Declaration of Policy.** – It is the policy of the State to protect and
5 promote the right to health of the people and instill health consciousness among them.
6 The State also recognizes the right of people to safe and nutritious food that is free
7 from harmful substances like trans-fatty acids (TFA) that increase their risk of
8 contracting deadly diseases. In this regard, the State shall protect Filipinos from the
9 threat of death and diseases linked to TFA consumption by progressively removing
10 industrially-produced TA from the food supply.

11
12 **SEC. 3. Definition of Terms.** – For the purposes of this Act, the following terms
13 shall be defined as follows:

- 14
15 a) Certificate of Product Registration (CPR) refers to an authorization issued by
16 the Food and Drug Authority (FDA) for specific health products, including food,
17 after evaluation, and approval of appropriate documents;
18 b) Food refers to any substance or product, whether processed, partially
19 processed or unprocessed, that is intended for human consumption. It
20 includes drinks, chewing gum, water, and other substances that were used
21 as an ingredient or a component in the manufacture, preparation or treatment
22 of food, such as oils and fats, whether sold alone or incorporated in processed
23 food and/or prepackaged food;
24 c) Food Business Operator refers to a person engaged in the food business
25 including one's agents and is responsible for ensuring that the requirements
26 of this Act and Republic Act No. 10611, otherwise known as the Food Safety
27 Act of 2013, are met by the food business under one's control;

- d) Food Service Establishment refers to any establishment that prepares, serves, markets, sells, or offers for sale, food or drink to be consumed within the establishment or taken-out;
- e) Partially Hydrogenated Oil (PHO) refers to fat or oil that has been hydrogenated, but not to complete or near complete saturation, and with an iodine value greater than four (4), as determined by a method that is suitable for this analysis;
- f) Prepackaged Food refers to processed food made up in advance in a container, labeled and ready for sale to the consumer, or for catering purposes;
- g) Processed Food refers to food that has been subjected to some degree of processing like milling, drying, concentrating, canning, or addition of some ingredients which changes partially or completely the physico-chemical and/or sensory characteristics of the food's raw material; and
- h) Trans-Fatty Acids (TA) refer to the fatty acids with at least a double bond in the trans configuration, regardless of whether they are produced industrially or come from ruminant sources, including linoleic acid.

SEC. 4. Scope and Application. – This Act shall apply to all food business operators as defined in this Act.

SEC. 5. Prohibition on the Manufacture, Importation, Distribution and Sale of PHOs and Oils and Fats with High TA Content. – The manufacture, importation, distribution, and sale of the following are prohibited:

- a) PHOs to be consumed alone or used in the preparation of food products;
- b) Oils and fats made or blended with PHOs; and
- c) Oils and fats with TA content of more than 2g per 100g, excluding TFA content from ruminant sources.

No registration, license or permit shall be issued to any food manufacturer, importer or distributor that manufactures, imports, distributes, or sells food in violation of this provision.

SEC. 6. Prohibition on the Manufacture, Importation, Distribution, and Sale of Processed and Prepackaged Food with PHOs and High TFA Content. – The manufacture, importation, distribution, and sale of the following processed and prepackaged foods are prohibited:

- a) Those prepared with PHOs, including food prepared by food service establishments;
- b) Those prepared with oils and fats made or blended with PHOs, including food prepared by food service establishments; and
- c) Those with TFA content of more than 2g per 100g of total fat, excluding TFA content from ruminant sources.

No registration, license, or permit shall be issued to any food manufacturer, importer, or distributor for any processed or prepackaged food manufactured, imported, distributed, or sold in violation of this provision.

1 **SEC. 7. Prohibition on Trans-Fat Free Claims.** – Claims on the packaging,
2 labelling, marketing, or advertising, that a food product is TA-free is prohibited. A TFA-
3 free claim is any claim that states or suggests that the food product does not contain
4 TFA, such as "Trans Fat Free," with "Og Trans Fat," or any other similar claim.

5
6 **SEC. 8. Material Misrepresentation.** – Any material misrepresentation in the
7 application for a CPR with the FDA, specifically relating to TA or PHO content, shall
8 be a ground for the imposition of appropriate penalties prescribed under this Act. For
9 purposes of this Act, there is material misrepresentation when the applicant makes a
10 false representation of a material fact in the application for a CPR, tending directly to
11 induce the FDA to grant the application when otherwise it will be denied.

12
13 **SEC. 9. Assistance and Capacity Building for Local Implementation and**
14 **Enforcement.** – The FDA shall strengthen the capacity of local government units
15 (GUS) in enforcing the provisions of this Act, including the provision of trainings and
16 other capacity-building activities in the regulation of prepackaged and processed food
17 produced and marketed in traditional markets and food service establishments in
18 accordance with Republic Act No. 10611, otherwise known as the Food Safety Act of
19 2013. Such assistance shall include, but not be limited, to technical assistance, use of
20 laboratories for testing, and sharing of information relevant to products registered with
21 the FDA.

22
23 **SEC. 10. Research and Development.** – The Department of Science and
24 Technology (DOST), in coordination with the Department of Agriculture (DA) and the
25 Department of Health (DOH) and other relevant agencies, shall conduct and intensify
26 its research to identify and develop healthy alternative oils and food products, including,
27 but not limited, to:

- 28
29 a) Healthy alternative oilseeds through crop diversification programs and
30 agricultural research, in coordination with the DA;
31 b) Healthy oils and fats through the application of oil modification techniques
32 and other methods; and
33 c) Healthy food products through product reformulation, research and
34 development.

35
36 The DOST shall also coordinate with the FDA in developing or adopting
37 technology that will reduce the cost of TA testing.

38
39 **SEC. 11. Oilseeds Crop Diversification.** – The DA shall implement an oilseeds
40 crop diversification program, and in coordination with the DOST, conduct continuing
41 research and development to support the production of healthy alternative oilseeds.

42
43 **SEC. 12. Trainings and Seminars on Reformulation and Information**
44 **Campaign.** – The DOH, in coordination with FDA, Department of Trade and Industry-
45 Philippine Trade Training Center (DTI-PTTC), DOST Philippine Council for Health
46 Research and Development (DOST-PCHRD), DOST-Food and Nutrition Research
47 Institute (DOST-FRI), Department of Interior and Local Government (DILG), and the
48 Technical Education and Skills Development Authority (TESDA), shall conduct
49 trainings and seminars for food business operators and food service establishments

1 on the reformulation of food products to comply with the provisions of this Act, and the
2 use of healthy alternative oils as determined by the DOH and DOST.

3
4 The DOH shall also regularly conduct information, education and communication
5 campaigns regarding TA and its dangers, the contents of this Act, the value of having
6 a healthy diet, proper methods of heating and reheating of cooking oils, and alternative
7 oils available in the market. For this purpose, it shall also prepare relevant materials,
8 which shall be posted and regularly updated on its website, and as far as practicable,
9 be translated in regional languages.

10
11 **SEC. 13. Inspection Powers and Record-Keeping.** – The FDA, through its
12 authorized agents, shall have the power to inspect the premises and records of food
13 business operators to determine compliance with this Act. The FDA shall issue
14 inspection procedures and guidelines on record-keeping for this purpose.

15
16 **SEC. 14. Penalties.** – Any violation of this Act shall be meted out a fine of Fifty
17 Thousand Pesos (P50,000.00) up to One Million Pesos (P1,000,000.00), depending
18 on the severity and frequency of the violation/s, and the gross sales, capital investment,
19 and number of employees of the establishment concerned. In proper cases, the CPR
20 and License to Operate (LTO) issued by FDA and/or the certificate of registration
21 issued by the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) shall also be revoked, and
22 the corresponding closure of the business.

23
24 In addition to the administrative penalties, the FDA shall also seize, condemn,
25 destroy, and/or recall non-compliant food products.

26
27 **SEC. 15. Resources and Manpower.** – To ensure the proper implementation of
28 this Act, the FDA, if appropriate, shall create additional plantilla positions, subject to
29 relevant rules and regulations of the Civil Service Commission (CSC) and the approval
30 of the Department of Budget and Management (DBM).

31
32 In addition, the FDA shall ensure that all relevant government laboratories have
33 the proper equipment and resources to conduct testing of TA content in food. The FDA
34 shall also ensure that all personnel responsible for the implementation of this Act are
35 properly trained on TFA regulation, testing, monitoring, and surveillance.

36
37 **SEC. 16. Duty-free Importation of TA Testing Equipment.** – To ensure the
38 availability of laboratories capable of testing TF content in food, and to incentivize the
39 private sector in investing in such, the importation of laboratory equipment for testing
40 TFA shall be exempt from payment of customs duties and taxes.

41
42 **SEC. 17. Early compliance Incentives for MSMEs.** – The DTI, in coordination
43 with the DILG, shall develop and implement policies and programs providing
44 incentives for MSMEs to encourage early voluntary compliance with this Act.

45
46 **SEC. 18. Reports.** – The DOH shall submit an annual report to the President
47 and both Houses of Congress regarding the implementation of this Act. The report
48 shall also include a report on the consumption of TFA, which shall be included in the
49 Expanded National Nutrition Survey (ENNS), and testing and monitoring of TFA

1 content in food, which shall be included in the Food Composition Tables and Food
2 Composition Databases.

3
4 **SEC. 19. Transitory Provisions.** – Food business operators shall have a period
5 of two (2) years from the effectivity of this Act to comply with the provisions of this Act.
6

7 **SEC. 20. Appropriations.** – The amount necessary for the initial implementation
8 of this Act shall be charged against the current year's appropriations of the
9 departments/agencies concerned. Thereafter, such sums as may be necessary for the
10 continued implementation shall be included in the annual General Appropriations Act
11 (GAA).
12

13 All fines and fees that may be collected from the enforcement of this Act shall be
14 used exclusively for its implementation.
15

16 **SEC. 21. Implementing Rules and Regulations.** – Within sixty (60) days from
17 the effectivity of this Act, the DOH, in consultation with FDA, National Nutrition Council
18 (NNC), DILG, DTI, DOST, DA, and other relevant government agencies and
19 stakeholders, shall promulgate the necessary implementing rules and regulations
20 (IRR) for the effective implementation of this Act.
21

22 **SEC. 22. Separability Clause.** – If any portion or provision of this Act is declared
23 unconstitutional, the remainder hereof or any provisions not affected thereby shall
24 remain in force and effect.
25

26 **SEC. 23. Repealing Clause.** – Any law, presidential decree or issuance,
27 executive order, letter of instruction, rule, or regulation inconsistent with the provisions
28 of this Act is hereby repealed or modified accordingly.

29 **SEC. 24. Effectivity.** – This Act shall take effect fifteen (15) days after its
30 complete publication in the Official Gazette or in a newspaper of general circulation.
31

32 *Approved,*